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Yeltsin Addresses CIS Heads of State on Economic Union

LD2409153693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1450 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—Follows an address of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to an open meeting of the Council of Commonwealth State Heads, September 24, 1993:

Esteemed state heads!

esteemed Government heads!

I cordially welcome you to the capital of the Russian Federation. First of all, I would like to thank you for understanding and [your] support of measures I had to take. I am sure success of the constitutional reform and Russia's turning into genuinely democratic state will have a favourable influence on consolidation of our relations.

I consider today's meeting and participation in it of all state heads as a demonstration of determination to continue common progress along the path of reforms and consolidate the Commonwealth of Independent States.

An important event has happened in the life of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has been joined by the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azeri plenipotentiaries signed corresponding documents on the eve of this meeting. I hope fully-fledged Azeri participation in the Commonwealth will do good to Azeri peoples and the whole Commonwealth.

The major topic of today's meeting is the Treaty on Economic Union.

The majority of citizens of Commonwealth states and practically all fore-sighted politicians understand we will be able to overcome difficulties of transition to the market economy only on the basis of integration. At the same time, we must clarify the three key issues:

—Principles of economic interaction;

—stages of our progress towards economic union;

—organizational forms of cooperation.

Certainly, the first principle is respect to sovereignty of states-participants in the Economic Union. There is no doubt responsibility for the economic situation in each state is carried primarily by the state itself. Each state has an inseparable right to build an economic system desired by its people and hold an economic policy the state thinks is best. Certainly, no damage must be done to other states-participants in the Economic Union.

The second principle is account of vital interests of citizens of our states.

The Russian stand is clear: a visa-less regime must be adopted in the Commonwealth. We need mutual recognition of documents on education and profession. Commonwealth states must take mutual obligations in the sphere of insurance, pensions and regulation of migration. A major issue is clear and strong guarantees to prevent discrimination of citizens on ethnic or any other ground.

The third principle of cooperation is consolidation of the common economic space, free motion of commodities, services, capitals and the labor force.

The fourth principle is the account of difference in the rates of economic interaction and diversity of its forms. A number of states has a great readiness to progress along the integration path. Others are not ready for this. None will make them hurry.

The fifth principle is a special character of economic relations within the Economic Union.

None of us plans to build a closed and isolated from the outer world economic group. However, participants in the Economic Union must be ready for the most favoured nation regime in mutual relations.

Time is needed to achieve genuine integration. Much efforts are required to coordinate price, budget, tax and economic policies. The desire to progress in this direction is growing and I hope it will shape up in particular steps.

The credit-monetary policy is of special importance. To my mind, the scheme will be the following—the creation of a free trade zone, customs and payment union, common market and currency union. Certainly, some states will do it quicker, others—more slowly.

Mechanisms of anti-monopoly regulation will be coordinated to ensure sound competition in the common economic space. There is also a need for a system of mutual protection of investments. It is necessary to coordinate social policy of states-participants in the Economic Union. It is not the matter of unification of the social sphere; still, there are legal and moral norms to be observed by all members of the Commonwealth.

All this requires special legal regulation. A project of the kind, an agreement on assistance to refugees and forced migrants, will be considered by this meeting.

Now about organizational forms. It is important not to mix two levels of interaction—between enterprises and between states. The situation develops so that the first level will play the increasing role.

Live relations between thousands of enterprises will consolidate the Union much better than political documents. We must help them in all ways, ensure absolute guarantees of property rights and encourage efficient work on outer markets.

It is very useful to form joint market infrastructure—trade houses, exchanges, banks and insurance companies.

As for the inter-state level, it would be promising to establish multilateral branch coordination. This has been done, for instance, by the Energy Council, the Council on Railroad Transportation, the Council on Machine-Building and the Inter-Government Council on Oil and Gas.

The major problem in this respect is joint investments, which will help much to develop mutually beneficial cooperation. I think we must boost the creation of coordinating economic bodies. We need an economic committee to have powers to settle most acute current problems. The committee can work in periods between meetings of the council of government heads.

The Russian side values highly the work done to elaborate the treaty and the first but very important steps to achieve its goals. I mean an agreement on practical measures to create a rouble zone of a new type signed in Moscow on September 7, 1993, by six Commonwealth states, namely Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Russia has also signed corresponding bilateral agreements with participants in the new rouble zone. We will have to create prerequisites to unite national currency systems in the immediate future, which means the unification of national legislation related to this sphere and provision of the unity of control over the credit-monetary and customs systems.

I confirm that Russia is ready to conclude additional agreements with countries that favour deeper integration. Such agreements are being prepared for signing with the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A way towards the Economic Union is not a return to the past. On the contrary, we are progressing towards new forms of interaction. They fully correspond to economic reforms held in the Commonwealth states and give space to sound market forces.

At the same time, the significance of the draft treaty exceeds economic boundaries. There will be no Economic union without solid guarantees of safety of our states. It is our direct common task to achieve this within the framework of each state, countries and the whole Commonwealth.

Armed conflicts, terrorism and organized crime are especially dangerous. That is why I think the military package of documents is extremely important. The system of Commonwealth collective security needs consolidation as well, and we will work for it.

We must now take specific decisions on assistance to Tajikistan. I think the assistance must be rendered in this or that form by all members of the Commonwealth and the decisions must be implemented correctly and immediately. Russia supports an idea on the need to consolidate our cooperation in protection of outer state borders, primarily in Central Asia. Let us instruct foreign ministers to prepare a draft corresponding document by the next meeting of the Commonwealth state heads.

Esteemed state heads! Esteemed government heads!

We have unique chances which had neither European nor any other states following the path of economic integration. The Commonwealth has a real prospect to become a most influential integration community of the world.

All we will do in this respect will be for the benefit of citizens of our states. Let us wish each other success and get down to business.

Heads of State Sign All Documents

LD2409183693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The Heads-of-State Council meeting today ended in Moscow with the signing of all the 18 documents submitted for consideration by the CIS leaders, virtually no amendments were made. The summit's participants said that the slight amendments and additions made did not alter their decisions.

The principal document produced at the meeting was the treaty to create an economic union within the CIS, including Azerbaijan. As was expected, Ukraine and Turkmenistan joined the union as associate members.

The summit decided to change the name of the united forces of the member-states to the Collective Security Treaty, to be deployed in Tajikistan. From now on, they will be called "The Collective Peace-keeping Forces," though their tasks, principles and combat readiness remained the same as before.

Heads of Government Refuse To Meet Rutskoy

LD2409131693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] All the participants in the meeting of the CIS heads of governments have refused to meet the newly declared president, Aleksandr Rutskoy. The CIS heads of governments support the policy of the president of Russia.

IZVESTIYA Details Treaty on Economic Union

PM2709093193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "CIS Strengthened by Economic Union and Will Perhaps Be Swelled by New Members"]

[Text] The main result of the three-hour session of the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS states held

on the morning of 24 September at the President Hotel in Moscow was the initialing of the Treaty on Economic Union. This vast document, which, as is well known, presupposes the creation of a single economic area, the free movement of goods, and unified customs regimes, was acceptable to nine states which used to belong to the Soviet Union. Representatives of two states—Ukraine and Turkmenistan—deemed it possible to accede to this treaty as associate members.

Journalists were told by Georgian Prime Minister O. Patsatsiya that on behalf of the Georgian leadership he voiced the intention to join the CIS as an associate member, which will open the way to acceding to the economic union. At the same time CIS Executive Secretary I. Korotchenya reported that the Ukrainian delegation had suggested altering the eighth article of the Treaty on Economic Union. This was received with understanding by the session participants. After the relevant reworking of the text of the treaty there are every grounds for expecting that Ukraine will join the economic union as a full member.

Thus the idea of a CIS "common market," which was initiated about a year ago by Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, has today materialized in practice.

Commenting on this event, Kazakhstan Prime Minister S. Tereshchenko stressed that this step was dictated by the logic of the collaboration of the states of the former Union, whose economies are powerfully integrated. We have all been through a lot in an attempt to emerge from the economic crisis on our own. For instance, with the various customs regimes in order to export a bottle of wine from Kazakhstan to Russia you have to pay duty of 140 rubles [R] and even more for a blouse. I see the practical implementation of this treaty in the creation of joint-stock enterprises in the relevant sectors—oil and gas extraction and refining, machine building, the food industry, and so forth. That is a matter for the entrepreneurs. We representatives of the governments should not prevent them from conducting economic activity, but should help them.

In the afternoon at the session of the Council of Heads of States of the CIS this treaty should be definitively secured—the heads of state are to sign it. Of course, this document still as to be ratified by parliament, which is a far from simple process. For instance, the parliaments of Moldova and Ukraine have not given the leaders of those countries' executive branches boundless powers to adopt such an important decision. Serious differences on a number of questions of economic reform are to be observed between the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the parliamentary majority of Belarus. And the future of the Russian parliament is still uncertain. Nonetheless it may be considered that an important step toward creating a sensible system of economic managed checked by world practice was taken in Moscow 24 September.

Although the real results of this treaty will not come at once, as Russian Government Vice Premier A. Shokhin told journalists, this treaty is a framework and it should be supplemented with more specific agreements. Before the end of this year about 20 such agreements are expected, which will make it possible to resolve questions of cooperation in specific fields.

The heads of government also discussed about 15 other questions of economic collaboration, including cooperation in fields like machine building, ensuring security during the rail shipment of passengers and freight, cooperation in the study of earthquakes, the provision of grain harvesting equipment for agriculture in 1993-95, social aid for members of the families of servicemen who died in Afghanistan and other states where there have been hostilities, and the struggle against organized crime.

Of special interest is the accord on the allocation of expenses for the joint creation of the complex of capacities of the truck plant in the city of Yelabuga. To construct the plant-city Russia must allocate 50 percent of the required expenses (Tatarstan should earmark 25 percent) and the other states undertake to earmark 10 to 2 percent.

Ukraine Signs as 'Associate'

LD2409173993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] [Announcer] The summit of the CIS member states began today in Moscow with a meeting of the heads of government.

[Unidentified correspondent] For two and a half hours, the heads of government had discussed all 17 issues on the agenda of the meeting and made a decision on setting up an economic union. The council of the heads of government recommended a relevant agreement to be signed by the leaders of the CIS countries. The meeting of the heads of CIS states was opened by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He expressed certainty that the current meeting would become a turning point in the history of the Commonwealth. Yeltsin thanked all the heads of CIS states for their solidarity and support of the measures he had taken lately to defend democracy and civil peace in Russia.

[Announcer] After several hours of work, the meeting of the council of the heads of state ended in the signing of an agreement on setting up the economic union of the Commonwealth. Ukraine and Turkmenistan signed the document as associate members. Leonid Kravchuk made a statement at the meeting. He underlined that the Ukrainian delegation has been doing everything possible to make its constructive contribution to the elaboration of such a document which would properly comply with both the constituent documents of the CIS and the norms of our legislature.

Analyst Assesses Treaty

LD2509134693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1136 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—The treaty on an economic union concluded on Friday [24 September] by the heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) can be justifiably called the news of the week, having great importance for peoples populating a sixth part of the globe.

Nine countries of the Commonwealth, after two years of futile attempts by the former Soviet republics to overcome the economic crisis single-handed, decided, at long last, to restore a single economic space. Another two countries, Ukraine and Turkmenistan, wished to join the economic union as associated members.

Participants in the CIS summit stressed in Moscow on Friday that the understanding on setting up the economic union is not an attempt to return to the past.

On the contrary, the Commonwealth countries intend to develop new forms of cooperation, which will fully conform to economic reforms in the CIS states and, as it was stressed by Boris Yeltsin at the summit, will open "vistas for healthy market forces."

The CIS prime ministers expressed unanimous opinion that the earliest establishment of a single economic space will enable the Commonwealth nations to restore in the next two or three years disrupted economic relations between enterprises. A single economic space will be a decisive factor in stopping the indusrial slump in the CIS countries and overcoming the deep economic crisis in these states.

The presidents and prime ministers have to conclude some 30 additional agreements to prod the treaty "to work" full blast. It is expected that they will cover both cooperation between enterprises in the Commonwealth nations as well as organisational forms of cooperation between states at a sectoral level.

It is quite probable that the Commonwealth will set up soon intergovernment coordinating bodies on individual industries as well as an economic committee vested with powers to resolve efficiently the most pressing routine problems.

In any case, Russia came up with an initiative to set up such a committee at the Moscow summit.

Benefits which a single economic space can bring to the Commonwealth nations are irrefutable. Incidentally, the example of integrating Western Europe indicates a direction for the further development of the world, above all, on the road of deeper cooperation between national economies.

Mindful of this, analysts were puzzled by Ukraine's refusal to join the union as a co-founder. The only explanation for this refusal was given to journalists by the Ukrainian president's press secretary Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov.

He intimated on Friday that the treaty on the economic union does not fully meet such requirements set forth by Ukraine as respect for state sovereignty, equality, mutual advantage as well as national legislation.

Local analysts believe that these explanations are far-fetched. Replying to ITAR-TASS on this issue, Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said: "The treaty does not infringe on anybody's rights. It is beneficial for all countries."

The premier also stressed that allegations that Russia again wants to command other former Soviet republics are totally groundless: The establishment of a single economic space is an equal economic union of states.

News Conference Held on Results of CIS Summit

LD2409140693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—"Commonwealth state and government heads supported constitutional reforms carried out by the Russian president and wished him success," Belarussian parliament Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich told a news conference on results of Moscow's meeting of the Commonwealth councils of state and government heads.

In his words, the Commonwealth leaders expressed the assurance Yeltsin's constitutional reforms will be done in a democratic way through elections.

Noting the Azeri admission to the CIS, Shushkevich said he hopes the Azeri and Armenian heads, "who sat next to each other at today's meeting will continue searching for efficient ways to achieve peace in the region".

Shushkevich, Chernomyrdin Cited

LD2409163293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—Chairman of the Belarusian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, addressed a news conference held upon completion of the CIS summit today, saying that he regards an address, made by the chairman of the Russian (dissolved) parliament calling to restore the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as "a wish to violate the constitutional order in Belarus."

Assessing a treaty on the economic union, signed on Friday, the Belarusian leader said that [there] had been no document of economic character in the CIS yet to be prepared at a such a serious level. When preparing the document, all articles envisaging trustee procedures, the

order of working out and signing direct agreements stemming from the treaty, have been thoroughly outlined, Shushkevich said.

For his part, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that extending this agreement, Russia intends in the next few days to sign agreements with Belarus and Kazakhstan on the reduction of the network of customs posts which will remain only at major transportation centers and highways and will operate to prevent unauthorized exports of strategic materials and weapons and drug trafficking. The regime of examination of physical entities at customs check points when crossing common borders of the three countries will be considerably facilitated. Besides, some customs bans are expected to be lifted and customs duties levied on imported goods will be reduced by 50 per cent, Chernomyrdin said.

Further Remarks

LD2409221193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The main news of the day was the signing of a treaty on an economic union on CIS territory. It was signed in Moscow on 24 September. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian premier, and Stanislav Shushkevich, the leader of Belarus, called the document historic. Our correspondent, Vyacheslav Osipov, reports:

[Osipov] The economic union of CIS states envisages the gradual establishment of a common economic area based on market relations, and provides for the joint implementation of economic projects. Azerbaijan, which signed the treaty, is also becoming a full member of the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the same time, Ukraine and Turkmenistan joined the economic union as associate members. Speaking at a news conference, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the head of the Russian Government, stressed that a new stage in the creation of mutually advantageous relations was beginning. In this context, Viktor Chernomyrdin observed:

[Chernomyrdin] "All this has been done on a voluntary basis. Even today I said that states had come which had almost, or in effect, not taken part before. Everything will depend on us. It is we who need it—all of us, not just Russia or Belarus, but all of us. In principle, we are all suffering as a result of the destruction of our links."

[Osipov] Credit and finance payments were the most difficult issue to agree upon. Many republics have introduced their own currency. How will these problems be resolved?

[Chernomyrdin] "Any country in this area can have its own currency. The ruble is the unit which will link us together in all respects. An exchange rate will be established, and those who want to use the ruble will do so in the appropriate conditions, but it must be kept in mind that the point is not that the ruble should be in circulation in every country, but that monetary, credit, and financial policy should be coordinated."

[Osipov] It is well known that the Commonwealth states have already signed a hundred documents, if not more, but few of them bring any benefit. What is the reason for the Russian prime minister's optimism that the economic union treaty will work?

[Chernomyrdin] "The reason is that the signatories will have to answer for their signatures. When all is said and done, we have had enough of signing and then doing nothing or very little."

[Osipov] Nevertheless, most of the journalists gained the impression that the aim of establishing the economic union was to reestablish the Soviet Union too. Here is the reaction of Stanislav Shushkevich, the leader of Belarus, to that:

[Shushkevich] "I have no wish to run ahead of events and apply any epithets to it. I believe we have taken a very serious step today, and it has been well prepared and considered. As for other steps which we were so widely urged to take, in general they were pure propaganda. Of course, I am not entitled to comment on internal events in another state, but as an appeal to me personally, I view Khasbulatov's letter as a wish to violate the constitutional system in our republic."

[Osipov] The participants in the meeting of Commonwealth heads of state think complete economic integration will take several years. This means that the debate on the political system in the CIS is likewise being postponed to the distant future.

Prime Ministers Interviewed on Treaty, Summit

Russia's Chernomyrdin

LD2609153793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Sep 93

["Mir TV and Radio Company" report by Andrey Skryabin]

[Text] The meeting of the council of heads of government opened at 0900 [on 24 September]. They considered the standing orders and the agenda and discussed and adopted a whole package of documents—just look at how many documents there are.

My colleague, Yuliy Semenov—observer Yuliy Semenov—and I managed to record a few interviews during the break. I should like to invite you to watch these interviews, in which, of course, the first question concerned the economic union.

[Begin recording] [Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin] As soon as this document is signed, it will give an impetus to all the others, because everything else also...[pauses] I wouldn't say that nothing is working, for some things are working, but the economic union will

remove many obstacles. It is a completely different approach and a completely new foundation for our relations today, although a certain amount of time will also be needed after the signing of this document—we shall need to formulate and approve the regulations, and bilateral agreements will be signed. There is a timetable here: in the main, it will all be done in 1993—there will be a bilateral foundation, and we shall sign agreements with each other. But I believe that what we must do today is lay a really strong foundation.

[Semenov] Does this document supersede the economic treaty between three states which you signed with your counterparts....

[Chernomyrdin, interrupting] It is a development. It does not cancel it, if I may put it that way. It merely intensifies.... [pauses] That document formed the basis for today's. [end recording]

Kazakhstan's Tereshchenko

LD2609160993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Interview with Kazakhstani Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko by Yuliy Semenov in Moscow on 24 September—recorded; from the "Mir TV and Radio Company" program]

[Text] [Semenov] Prime Minister, do you think such states as Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus have a special mission in cementing the Commonwealth economically?

[Tereshchenko] I think a special mission has always been inherent in the positions of our heads of state. President Yeltsin, President Nazarbayev and, as far as I am aware, the prime minister [as heard] of Belarus have always supported close economic integration. I cannot remember a single occasion when any of those leaders has wavered on the issue. For this reason, I think that this example has today, at the meeting of heads Of government, enabled us to sanction an economic union and to submit it for approval by the heads of state an hour and a half from now. I think this will come about, and a clear example of this is the fact that Azerbaijan has come today to settle the matter of its accession to the CIS and its subsequent entry into the economic union. Later, I think the same subject will be raised by Georgia. If that is the way the economy is—and whether it is good or bad, you cannot ignore what is there—I think that in the past two years we have all experienced a slump in production, a severing of economic relations, and, in general, a deterioration in our economic position, and nobody has gained from that.

Tajikistan's Abdullodzhanov

LD2709060593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Interview with Tajikistan Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov by correspondent Andrey Skryabin; in Moscow on 24 September—recorded; from the "Mir TV and Radio Company" program]

[Text] [Skryabin] What economic difficulties is your state facing?

[Abdullodzhanov] I believe not only our state, but also other former USSR states feel that fuel remains the first priority: gas, diesel fuel, lubricants, mazut—all oil products. Of course, the second very difficult factor for our republic is payments to Russia. I believe and hope, however, that after concluding the economic union these questions will be resolved for the better.

[Skryabin] Considering that the situation in Tajikistan is not easy, will CIS countries take any joint measures or actions vis-a-vis Tajikistan?

[Abdullodzhanov] Yes, there are three questions [as heard] on Tajikistan in the agenda of the meeting of heads of state and governments: on creating coalition forces to defend the Tajik-Afghan border—and all countries have already made a statement on the border situation—and on a relief fund to Tajikistan.

[Skryabin] Will this help Tajikistan in the current situation?

[Abdullodzhanov] It will, of course, as a first stage. The next stage—we should get down to it ourselves.

[Skryabin] The last question: When we were talking about the treaty, two alternative names were considered—the union and the commonwealth. As far as I know, you made the decision to recommend the union for further discussion. Why is that? What is behind it?

[Abdullodzhanov] You know, I would think that names are not important. What is important is the contents. That is why the main thing is the contents.

[Skryabin] Right, one more question: There is an economic union of Central Asian states. Will there be any conflict of interests, generally, with the economic treaty?

[Abdullodzhanov] Not at all.

Georgia's Patsatsiya

LD2709054993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Interview with Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsiya by correspondent Yuliy Semenov; in Moscow on 24 September—recorded; from the "Mir TV and Radio Company" program]

[Text] [Semenov] We know that the situation in Georgia is now very complicated indeed, but you are here nevertheless. What brings you here?

[Patsatsiya] Georgia has been considering the economic commonwealth in detail—that is why we are here. We have been observing and listening to the meeting, and we intend to join the Commonwealth as an associate

member, but the most important question is that this fratricidal war should be stopped. CIS countries should assist us in this, with Russia playing a decisive part. The Sochi agreement is not observed at all by the Abkhazians. Here, for us, the Russian Federation Government must play the leading part.

[Semenov] You spoke here today to your colleagues. Do you expect good results from the comprehensive cooperation between Georgia and Commonwealth states, primarily in the economic sphere?

[Patsatsiya] The economic cooperation is no doubt a priority. We must consider this issue in detail. Agreements on many questions, four or five, if I am not mistaken, have already been signed. Today we are going to consider another two or three points, and to sign another two or three documents on economic cooperation.

Armenia's Bagratyan

LD2709112593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Interview with Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan by Andrey Skryabin in Moscow on 24 September—recorded; from the "Mir TV and Radio Company" program]

[Text] [Skryabin] What conclusions do you draw from today's conference and the signing of the economic union agreement?

[Bagratyan] The main issue is to restore economic ties. It is absolutely simple: all sorts of barriers have been created everywhere, and as a result everyone's economy has continued to slump. That means losses running into immense amounts—billions of dollars. The main thing is to find a forum in which the states remain independent states and help rather than hinder one another to trade—at least to trade—within the framework of the CIS. Because it is incomprehensible that one country raises import duty in order to earn income from another. The other one responds in kind after a while. This trade war leads to bad things, of course.

A free and fair trading system will certainly help establish fair financial relationships. At the moment, even if you do have money, it is still a problem to make a payment, even in foreign currency. The most important matter is for us to do away with this, because it was really created within the past two or three years, it should be done away with.

[Skryabin] I have this question for you: it is being proposed that Azerbaijan should be accepted as a CIS member. In your view, will this in any way promote a solution to the Karabakh problem?

[Bagratyan] Well, in principle, I personally consider that the CIS will at least represent another forum in which this can be discussed. But I would also like to note that the Karabakh problem must first and foremost be resolved directly between Azerbaijan and Karabakh. I will not take on the responsibility of saying that it will be positive if it [membership] happens, but I think that at least it will not be worse.

Azerbaijan's Aliyev Comments on CIS Accession

LD2409190193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1629 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, today signed in the Kremlin documents on the republic's joining the CIS.

The documents include the Almaty Declaration, the CIS Charter, and the Collective Security Treaty.

After the signing ceremony, Aliyev stated that objective necessity had led Azerbaijan to that step. "We analyzed our situation when we were outside the CIS and came to the conclusion that this would not further the solution of the problems facing the country." Entry into the CIS, in his words, will help to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic, financial, and other spheres. He expressed gratitude to the leadership of the countries of the Commonwealth for supporting Azerbaijan's desire to join the CIS.

Azerbaijani, Armenian Leaders Meet During Summit

NC2509094393 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0701 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 25.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Geydar Aliyev met with Ter-Petrosyan during the CIS summit all the CIS countries a regarded very positively our appearance in the session's halls was welcomed, Geydar Aliyev said in the interview to ASSA-IRADA correspondent after the CIS summit in Moscow was over. [sentence as received] Contacts with the heads of the CIS states produced a pleasant impression on me I have known all of them for a long time, Geydar Aliyev emphasized.

Without any hesitation Azerbaijan also joint the newly created economic union. During the conference I always thought that our republic lost much, isolating itself from the other republic of the former USSR. Today the prime minister of Georgia declared on forthcoming joining the CIS and president of Moldova signed about 20 treaties together with the heads of the CIS countries, we can say that 12 countries—former Soviet Union republics are CIS members. [sentence as received] Answering ASSA-IRADA question, Geydar Aliyev said that he discussed the ways of peace settlement of Karabakh conflict with president of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan. They exchanged the view-points of necessity to continue the dialogue.

Talks Termed 'Very Useful'

LD2509133193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1105 GMT 25 Sep 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Sep—Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the president of Armenia, have described their meeting, held today in a residence of Russia's Foreign Ministry, as important and very useful.

In his statement for the press Azerbaijan's leader stressed that, "despite complications in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan because of Nagorno-Karabakh," he personally is "convinced that there is a need for meetings of this kind." In his words, he and the Armenian president "exchanged opinions on the ways of peaceful settlement of this problem and agreed on several issues."

Aliyev is satisfied with their conversation and hopes for future contacts and for a direct dialogue with Ter-Petrosyan.

According to the Armenian head of state, some positive factors have manifested themselves lately, which inspire hope of a prompt settlement of the Karabakh conflict. He said that he means "first and foremost today's meeting with Geydar Aliyev, but also the dialogue on different levels between Baku and Stepanakert which has been going on for over a month now, with Russia acting as an intermediary." "I think that all this will result in our finding effective mechanisms for resolving this problem in the near future," said Levon Ter-Petrosyan, after remarking on the importance of Russia's peacemaking efforts and the processes taking place within the framework of the CSCE and the Minsk Conference.

He considers that the principal task of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, and Russia is to direct all initiatives and efforts into a single channel.

Mediator Comments

LD2509175093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1048 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Sep—Special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, head of Russia's mediation mission for peaceful settlement in Nagorno- Karabakh, believes that it is vitally important to solve the issue of a cease-fire and cessation of all hostilities in the area of the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

The diplomat is convinced that it will be possible to bring the opposing sides' positions closer together; he noted that his country was "putting a lot of efforts into this."

Kazimirov said that it had not been difficult to organize the present meeting between Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The leaders of the two Transcaucasian states had both expressed their willingness to exchange views on the situation in the conflict area and on prospects for further relations.

Interior Ministers End Volgograd Conference

LD2409165993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Volgograd September 24 TASS—A two-day conference of interior ministers of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Baltic and Caucasian states ended in Volgograd today.

Russia's deputy minister of internal affairs, Lieutenant-General Vitaliy Turbin told ITAR-TASS that the highly professional meeting resulted in the elaboration of a program to continue the conference's work and the signing of documents on combatting crime.

Conference participants agreed to a suggestion from the Russian Interior Ministry's press center, which operated during the conference, to meet with the members of the media accredited at the forum.

In the briefing journalists were told that "the virtually transparent borders" between former Soviet republics require additional coordination between the law enforcement agencies of these states.

Specifically, it was noted that the conference participants unanimously called for the establishment of an inter-state coordinating bureau for the prevention of organized crime. The bureau, which is expected to be based in Moscow, will include representatives of all independent states.

According to the same sources, the ministers have reached agreement on measures for prevention of crimes by minors and for ensuring safe movement throughout the former Soviet Union.

The leaders of law enforcement agencies have elaborated an action plan for 1993-1994, sources reported.

CIS Executive Secretary Visits New York for UN Talks

LD2609154193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya arrived in New York today for talks with the UN

leadership. The aim of his trip is to discuss the possibility that the Commonwealth's council of foreign ministers might be represented at the United Nations, initially as observers. This corresponds to the intention of the CIS countries to act in unison in the world arena, Ivan Korotchenya told a RIA correspondent.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 Sep

LD2509064793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0631 GMT 25 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, September 25 (ITAR-TASS)—The Moscow press focuses on the tragic events in the Leningrad Avenue, as a result of which two people were killed.

Under the heading "Blood Has Been Spilled. Our Duty Is To Prevent a Civil War", the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper carries several reports, saying that a group of armed people in camouflage uniforms attacked the headquaters of the allied forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the evening of September 23.

As a result, militia Captain Valeriy Sviridenko, 36, died of fatal wounds and pensioner Vera Malysheva, 62, was killed by a stray bullet which hit her through a window at her apartment.

In this connection, the newspaper quotes leader of the "Labour Moscow" movement Anpilov at a rally in front of the parliament building, which was held at the same time, as saying that "real men are now storming the headquarters of the CIS Allied Forces on orders from "union of army officers" leader Stanislav Terekhov". The newspaper points to Anpilov's call for supporting "the heroes".

A report on the tragic event was also featured by the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper which, referring to statements by Defence Ministry high-ranking officers, writes that protection of all Defence Ministry installations has been reinforced.

The newspaper notes that Defence Minister Pavel Grachev promised that if the above accident is repeated, he would give orders "to open effective fire without warning".

Commenting on the tragedy, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper expresses opinion that the attack on the headquarters resembles a recent abortive attempt by retired General Albert Makashov to capture the communications centre of the State Committee for Emergencies.

"A similar raid and a similar quick retreat after a failure. The only difference is that the first one was made without firearms," the newspaper writes. "The aim is the same in both cases: to capture a communications centre enabling mutineers to contact troops directly and command them."

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper makes "clarifications" to journalists on this occasion from some heads of parliament building defence, including Makashov. They claimed that they "have nothing to do with the incident and learnt about it from a TV broadcast".

The press also concentrates on the signing of an agreement by the CIS heads of state on an economic union. Newspapers single out words from Boris Yeltsin's speech at the CIS summit that all CIS heads of state voted for Azerbaijan's accession to the Commonwealth and its membership in the economic union.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and PRAVDA newspapers informed its readers of the tenth special Congress of People's Deputies (extended parliament) which was disbanded by Yeltsin's decree.

The congress confirmed decisions by the dissolved Supreme Soviet (standing legislature) on the removal of Russian leader Yeltsin from the president's post. Under the headline "Russia is Against Dictatorship", the newspapers feature a summery of the key report by former Russian Parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov "on the political situation in the Russian Federation which developed as a result of the state coup".

Amplifying on this theme, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes concerning the Supreme Soviet: "The vanquished should peacefully leave for the sake of preventing bloodshed. Their main political, moral and historic mission now consist in this move. If their go without resistance, all their former political sins will be forgiven. Moreover, they will help conquerers not to commit a sin."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Holds Briefing 24 Sep

LD2409182093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Vosboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] An analysis of the information received by Russian Foreign Ministry indicates that foreign countries showed understanding and gave their backing to the presidential decree on stage-by-stage constitutional reform in Russia. The statement was made in Moscow Friday [24 September] at a briefing by the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, Grigoriy Karasin.

He said that the president's actions are considered in the world as a difficult but justified step in the search for a way out of the political deadlock in Russia and as evidence of the president's determination to promote the economic reforms and democratic transformations in the Russian society.

The Russian Foreign Ministry, said Karasin, which has been entrusted to adhere to Russia's state interests, does its best to carry out efficiently the decisions by the president and the government of the Russian Federation. The ministry and our embassies abroad continue working as they used to.

...REGRETS THAT RUSSIAN CANDIDATE WAS NOT PROPOSED FOR MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL...

Karasin has expressed his regret that the Russian candidate, Member of the Kaliningrad Regional Court Kiselev was not elected to the International Tribunal on Military Crimes on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

He suggested that the results were due to "the efforts by the states discontent with the active position of Russia seeking a fair settlement of the Yugoslavian conflict not affecting interests of any of the parties."

The diplomat confirmed that "Russia would carry out its duties in accordance with the tribunal's charter. Russia believes that its activities will really contribute to preventing violations of humanitarian rights on the territory of former Yugoslavia."

...GIVES UPDATE ON RUSSO-NORTH KOREAN CONSULTATIONS...

Karasin announced that a round of Russian-North Korean consultations had taken place on Thursday. The consultations resulted in the signing of an agreement on exchange between the foreign ministries of the two states for 1993-1994. The agreement was signed by Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze and North Korean Ambassador in Moscow Sun Song-pil.

According to the diplomat, the plan provides, in particular, for annual consultations at the level of deputies foreign ministers, enhancing relations between the two ministries' sub-departments and exchange of external political information.

The deputy foreign minister and the ambassador discussed the issues on the Korean Peninsula, including non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. "The Russian party confirmed its principal position in connection with settlement of the nuclear problem in Korea," Karasin emphasized.

...AND CONFIRMS MOSCOW'S READINESS TO RENDER FINANCIAL AID TO THE PALESTINIANS

Russian Foreign and Finance Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Boris Fedorov plan to take part in the international conference of donor-countries to be held in Washington October 1, said Grigoriy Karasin.

The conference to be held under the auspices of the Russian and U.S. co-sponsors of the process for the Middle East peace settlement is aimed at organizing international financial and economic aid to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed September 13.

Karasin has said Russia attaches great importance to the forum because it understands how significant the urgent financial aid is for the Palestinians and wants to make its concrete contribution into the cause.

Views Yeltsin Visit to Japan

LD2409142893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—There is no ground to believe that the schedule for Russian President Yeltsin's visit to Japan will have to be reconsidered, Grigory Karasin, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told a briefing here on Friday [24 September].

Asked whether the visit will have to be put off because of the recent events in Russia, Karasin emphasized that preparations for the visit are proceeding as planned.

Yeltsin To Begin Official Visit to Japan 12 Oct

LD2609032793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0255 GMT 26 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspodent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo, 26 Sep—Boris Yeltsin, the president of Russia, will begin his official visit to Japan on 12 October. As the Japanese news agency KYODO TSUSHIN reports from New York, a final agreement on this was reached today between the foreign ministers of Russia and Japan who held talks there.

Andrey Kozyrev and Tsutomu Hata are in New York to take part in the session of the UN General Assembly.

INTERFAX Previews Visit

LD2609142793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] The recognition of the status quo in the territorial issue is likely to become the main result of Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan, a well-informed source close to the Russian president's circles told INTERFAX.

This source also expressed the opinion that "Russia is likely to recognize the existence of the problem and will express readiness to discuss it."

"The most important task to be accomplished now is to check the gradual deterioration of relations with Japan which could be seen from several postponements of the Russian president's visit to Japan," he said.

Judging by the first reports from New York, he went on to say, the Russian and Japanese foreign ministers have managed to coordinate the text of the communique. He also said that this document had been drafted during Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kunadze's visit to Japan at the end of August. The only thing that was still to be coordinated was whether to exclude or save the mention of the 1956 Declaration on passing two of the four islands to Japan.

The same source noted that by including the reference to the 1956 Declaration Russia would assume the commitments taken by the Soviet Union in 1956. He said that Japan had proposed excluding the reference to the 1956 Declaration which points to Japan's sincere wish to ensure Boris Yeltsin's visit.

Pickering Makes 'Gesture of U.S. Support' for Democracy

LD2409150493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 24 Sep 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Vosboiyikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The U.S. ambassador in Russia Thomas Pickering on Friday handed over to a children's hospital in Moscow medical equipment worth some $4 Mn [million].

He told INTERFAX that the act and the dramatic developments in Russia are a mere coincidence. However, this will be a happy coincidence if the people of Ruussia consider the gesture as U.S. support for the democratic processes in Russia, said the ambassador.

Shokhin, Fedorov Leave as Scheduled for IMF Meeting

LD2509061393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Russian Deputy Prime Ministers Aleksandr Shokhin and Boris Fedorov along with a representative from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation leave today for Washington to take part in the annual session of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund. This information was confirmed to Mayak by Aleksandr Shokhin's press secretary Vladimir Kuznetsov. Issues dealing with Russia and which are important for it will be examined. This visit by the deputy prime ministers was planned a long time ago and they did not think it expedient to cancel it. Other members of the government are also trying not to disrupt schedules drawn up earlier.

Official Reiterates Georgia-Abkhazia Mediation Offer

LD2409164193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Starocelskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—"As a direct witness of the sufferings of the civilian population in the areas of the Georgian-Abkhazian military conflict, I can confirm that they are horrible", declared Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Boris Pastukhov at a briefing today.

The deputy minister mentioned in particular the civilian airliners which have been shot down in the last several days, calling these acts, "barbaric actions, which can not be justified any way by anyone".

Confirming Russia's readiness to continue its mediation between Georgia and Abkhazia with the goal of stopping bloodshed and ensuring a peaceful solution, Boris Pastukhov reported that two large landing craft from the Black Sea Fleet are headed to Sukhumi to assist civilian refugees in leaving the area of military operations.

In answer to journalists' questions, Pasthukov admitted that nothing could be done in the battle zone without peacekeeping troops. Past agreements have included applications to the UN Security Council to assign its peacekeeping troops to the region, but no reply has been received. Nevertheless, Russian military forces have already undertaken several operations at their own risk to evacuate wounded and civilians, Pastukhov said.

Arguing with one of the participants in the briefing, the deputy minister announced that the main reason the conflict has gotten worse is that the "Abkhazian side has openly broken the agreements reached in Sochi". At the same time he admitted that Russia and the U.N. were

partly at fault, saying, "If we had succeeded in introducing peacekeepers immediately after those agreements were signed, we might have been able to avoid that conflict".

The Russian diplomat, however, is not excusing the Georgian side from its share of responsibility. Georgia did not withdraw its troops, especially the heavy armor, within the agreed period. Along with this, the Russian deputy minister of foreign affairs reminded reporters that the Georgian side did manage to withdraw 200 artillery and tank units from Sukhimi in 50 days.

Kozyrev, Armenian Counterpart Discuss Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2409225593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1851 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—There have been certain changes for the better in resolving the Karabakh problem, Armenian Foreign Minister Vagan Papazyan told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today after his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

According to him, Russia can play an important role in this process. "We have approached the decision on a cease-fire which should be followed by tripartite peace talks with the participation of Nagorn-Karabakh, Armenia, and Azerbaijan," the minister said. He particularly noted the fact that Russia's position on the matter is quite balanced.

Yeltsin Thanks Aliyev for Exchange of POW's

LD2709093193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0815 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Sep—In line with an accord with the leaders of Russia and Azerbaijan, the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities have freed nine hostages and five Azerbaijani prisoners of war in exchange for six Russian Federation servicemen convicted in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijanis were handed over through Russian Federation embassy counsellor Albert Zhukov. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this by telephone today from Colonel (Militia) Aleksandr Agasaryan, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

After this humane act on the part of the Karabakh authorities, six Russian Federation [RF] ex-servicemen, five of whom were sentenced to death in Azerbaijan, were handed over to the RF judiciary. In his message to acting President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia expressed his pleasure at the handing over of the RF citizens, and thanked Aliyev for his personal part in resolving this issue.

Kozyrev Letter on Visit to Bosnia Circulated in UN

LD2409225093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2016 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations September 24 TASS—"Russia suggests taking a number of steps for strengthening confidence between the conflicting sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina by making use of the potential of the U.N. forces stationed there, "says a letter by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, circulated in the U.N. Headquarters on Friday as an official document of the Security Council.

"I have just visited Sarajevo and would like to share my impressions and ideas which came into my mind following talks with leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bosnian Serbs.

"The situation in Sarajevo seemed to me to be calmer than during my visit to the city last May, although damages have become more noticeable and shots are still being fired.

"Representatives of all communities of the city are equally concerned about one problem - the oncoming winter. The common concern seems to push sides to open a dialogue on quite concrete issues. Taking advantage of the situation, a number of steps can be taken on strengthening measures of confidence between the warring sides by making use of the potential of the U.N. forces in Bosnia- Herzegovina," the letter said.

Among measures of confidence between Bosnian Serbs and Moslems the Russian minister mentioned the opening of a direct telephone line between Sarajevo and Pale for establishing emergency contacts; the opening of new routes for deliveries of humanitarian supplies through the territory controlled by Serbs, the setting up of a mixed commission made up of representatives of the sides and U.N. forces for the solution of problems of resuming water and energy supplies to Sarajevo; the opening in Sarajevo of three check points for a free passage of citizens as a first step towards turning Sarajevo into an open city; obtaining a permission to purchase 6,000 tonnes of salt and 2,000 tonnes of oil for maintaining roads in a normal condition and ensuring the movement of humanitarian convoys along these roads in winter time.

Kozyrev pointed out that the Serbian side had suggested granting sanitary corridors between hospitals in the area of Sarajevo and asked for permission to supply 10,000 tonnes of mazut for heating schools, hospitals and kindergartens in winter time.

"I believe that these measures might help stabilize the situation around Sarajevo, in Bosnia-Herzegovina on the whole, and bring nearer the final settlement of the bloody conflict," the minister said.

Naval Commander Interviewed on Baltic Fleet Withdrawal

LD2409120993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1247 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Interview with Admiral Feliks Gromov, supreme commander of the Russian Navy, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—from "Exclusive" Report No. 37]

[Text] Lately the attention of the public in Russia and the CIS has been attached to the future of the Black Sea Fleet which the Russian Federation and Ukraine are trying to divide. This does not mean that the oldest Russian fleet—the Baltic—is free of problems which require immediate solution. Our correspondent discussed the subject with the Supreme Commander of the Russian Navy Admiral Feliks Gromov.

INTERFAX: Recently a group of admirals and officers from the Chief Staff of the Navy under your leadership visited the garrisons in Kaliningrad, Baltiisk, Chkalovsk as well as Riga and Liepaja. What is the present state of the Baltic fleet in the context of the withdrawal of its units from Baltic countries?

GROMOV: Even compared to other Russian fleets the Baltic fleet has more problems and the main one is related to the withdrawal of ships, units and formations from Baltic countries where almost 60% of all bases and 100% of submarine bases were located.

The loss of the infrastructure built for centuries has an unfavorable effect on the system of bases, of course. Hence two problems: the necessity of building a new system and the need to construct housing for officers and their families in the new places of deployment.

When we analyzed the withdrawal of forces from Latvia, we worked out steps that would promote the effective solution of the problems, especially the housing problem, through the use of navy structures.

Still we can say that the system of bases Russia has in the Baltic permits the fleet to carry out its duties. They have been somewhat changed. For example, the number of long distance voyages has been reduced.

I believe the withdrawal of the Baltic fleet will be completed in 1994 in keeping with the draft agreements with Baltic countries which have not been signed yet, unfortunately.

However, even today attention should be concentrated on organizing normal conditions for service, training and living in the new places of deployment in Kaliningrad region and the area of St. Petersburg.

INTERFAX: Judging by a number of recent examples the West, including EC countries, has not given up attempts to pressure Russia to speed up the withdrawal of its forces from Baltic countries. As agreements with those countries remain drafts might this withdrawal not turn into an escape?

GROMOV: It is clear that the Baltic states as well as the West would want to see a possibly fast withdrawal of Russian army and naval units. But in addition to this wish they should take into account all historical factors and circumstances, the necessity of guaranteeing social security. Russia is unable to rapidly settle scores of thousands of militarymen, and to withdraw them to nowhere is out of the question.

INTERFAX: A considerable part of the Baltic fleet is being pulled to Kaliningrad region. What is the future of the fleet there, its place in the new land, air and naval group formed there?

GROMOV: The answer requires a clear understanding of the specific features of the Kaliningrad enclave which is separated from Russia by Lithuania, Belarus and Poland. While the fleet will get steady supplies and have strongholds in the area of St. Petersburg, it is clear that the bulk of the force will be concentrated in Kaliningrad region. This means the navy will form the core of the future armed group and its role will grow. I think the group will guarantee the balance of forces and means guaranteeing the region the necessary security.

It is too early to speak of the size and structure of the group. One thing is clear, though, it will be smaller than the one stationed there before. As for the worries of our neighbors related to it, they should understand our efforts to guarantee our own security.

INTERFAX: The significance of the key base of the fleet in Baltiisk is growing. Both the base and the town have many painful problems. The interests of the military and civilians often contradict each other. The civilian authorities, for example, see the way out in building a big trade port in the town. What is your idea of a reasonable and realistic compromise?

GROMOV: Considering its present state Baltiisk as a town needs great investments to improve its social infrastructure. It is impossible to resolve local problems without promoting industries or expanding the port. In these circumstances we have found a compromise: part of the territory can be set aside for a trade port which Russia and Kaliningrad region as its part badly need now. If appropriate binding decisions are made, we are ready to cooperate with those who will invest and build the necessary facilities. I do not see any contradictions here.

INTERFAX: There like in many other places much depends on the cooperativeness of the military and civilian authorities. How would you describe the standard and efficiency of the existing contacts?

GROMOV: They are effective. However, I do not think that is enough because Kaliningrad region has not built all the housing for naval officers it promised. There is

plenty of work for both sides. During our meeting with the head of the regional administration and the mayors of Kaliningrad and Baltiisk we reached agreement on increasing the construction of housing for retired officers and for the officers pulled out of Baltic states. There is a possibility of getting 250 to 300 apartments in this way. But that is only one addition. Much work still has to be done to build a new infrastructure for the fleet.

INTERFAX: Here we approach the most painful problem of the fleet: the social security of the military. What can officers count on in terms of pay and housing?

GROMOV: As you probably know a number of steps has been taken recently: in the first six months of the year pay was raised and decisions were made to give priority in housing to retired officers. The government approved a program of housing construction for officers returning to Russia in the process of withdrawal.

Unfortunately, the sums earmarked for these purposes have been minimal so far. Therefore the main task today is to find our own solutions to the problems. The cooperation with the Lithuanian construction corporation Selma is a good example.

Recently the Russian parliament decided to raise the salaries of civilian government employees. Evidently a decision concerning the armed forces will follow. In any case I am sure of that.

INTERFAX: As this year Russia has not launched a single war ship, some people claim that the Russian navy is approaching its end rather than its 300th anniversary. How justified are such ominous forecasts?

GROMOV: Such forecasts are wrong. The Baltic fleet alone was joined by several new ships this year. Besides, the navy as a whole is taking on five big ships and submarines.

The Russian Armed Forces are being cardinally reformed. Their total size will be reduced to 1.5 Mn men. In this context the navy is going to be reduced by 28-30%. The number of ships will also be reduced, of course. As a result of modernization the Russian navy should become a more compact force capable of performing tasks in the national interests of the country in the Baltic, the Barents sea and the sea of Japan as well as elsewhere. Russia will remain a naval power and will have a navy deserving this name.

Today like before our naval ships are patrolling the seas, acting as a nuclear deterrent, making long-distance voyages and visits to foreign ports, carrying out missions in the Arctic, the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean.

In a word the Russian navy is alive and active and I am sure that it will mark its 3OO anniversary in a deserving way.

INTERFAX: Does all that apply to the Russian fleet on the Black sea?

GROMOV: I think that the latest talks between the two presidents in the Crimea finally dotted all the I's. The historical conditions and circumstances of the formation of the Black Sea Fleet, the placement of its bases are such that they cannot be wiped out by one gesture whoever and whenever might make it.

The agreement clearly states the key principle: the entire Black sea fleet based in the Crimea will be under Russian control. I think the principle meets the logic of history. I hope the principle will be at the heart of all future talks and steps of Russia and Ukraine concerning the fleet. So as far as the Black Sea fleet is concerned, I have more hopes than worries about it.

Left's Victory in Poland Not Result of Ideology

PM2409124193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Golts commentary: "Left's Victory in Poland: Start of a Trend?"]

[Text] The fact that the Democratic Left Alliance garnered more votes than any other party—over 20 percent—in Sunday's [19 September] Polish elections can hardly be called sensational. All the latest opinion poll data testified to this bloc's growing influence. In this connection analysts are talking about a growing trend typical not only of this country. Four years after Poland became the first East European country to break free from the power of its communist rulers, the party of former communists is assured of leadership in the parliamentary elections, THE WASHINGTON POST states. It adds: "Such a turn of events reflects a trend throughout East Europe and in part of the former USSR. Lithuania has returned the Left to power. Hungary could do the same next year and Russia possibly even earlier."

Yes, the trend is obvious. But what kind of trend? In my view, it is not very productive to proceed only from the political past of members of various parties. We only have to look at the Polish Left's program statements to realize that we are talking about what is by Western criteria "normal" social democracy. They include support for market reforms, the demand for the quickest possible integration into the EC, and the continuation of privatization. And, of course, a clear commitment to democracy. So that nobody was left in any doubt on this score Aleksander Kwasniewski, who is destined for the post of premier, states: "In our program there is no trace of anything that could be reminiscent of communism. If someone in our party suggested, for example, a return to a centralized economy, he would deserve to be expelled from it immediately, not because he is a communist but because he is an idiot."

Observers note that in principle the Left's approaches do not differ greatly from what their opponents were offering voters. But the votes still went to the Democratic Left Alliance. I think that the socialists were the first to realize the obvious fact that the wholesale entry into the market (which, let me observe, brought Poland a

considerable macroeconomic effect) had led to hard ordeals for millions of ordinary workers. Meanwhile at some moment the supporters of an abrupt reformation of the economy who were in power forgot who had brought them to their ministerial offices. And they paid the price.

Whether the Left will manage to implement the promised social programs and beat unemployment, which has reached the 3 million mark, is another question. Kwasniewski has frankly admitted that he does not know where to get the money from. But in any event, if we are talking about a growing trend in the public opinion of postcommunist states, it is in no way associated with ideological dogmas. It is simply that those who directly link their policies with ordinary people's vital interests can count on the voters' attention.

Company Set Up To Supervise Gas Pipeline Construction

LD2609125793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Russia and Poland have set up a company to supervise the building of a pipeline which will carry Russian natural gas to Poland. The agreement to establish the bilateral joint-stock company, to be named Europol, was signed by representatives of Russia's Gazprom, the Polish oil production authority, and Gas Trading Limited, the Polish-Russian-German conglomerate. Poland and Russia hold 48 percent of the shares each, with the remaining four percent being in the possession of Gas Trading. Europol's capital is $42 million. It was set up under an agreement signed in Warsaw four weeks ago by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Polish President Lech Walesa. The gas pipeline will have an annual throughput of 67 billion cubic meters of natural gas by 2002. The Polish section will be part of a line feeding gas from the Yamal peninsula to Frankfurt-an-der-Oder in Germany. The cost of building that line is estimated at $10 billion.

Foreign Ministry Official Discusses POW's in Afghanistan

LD2609174593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0415 GMT 26 Sep 93

[From the "Slavyanka" program]

[Text] The political battles in Russia have somewhat overshadowed public awareness of the question of what is to become of the former Soviet servicemen who were taken prisoner during the war in Afghanistan. However, the problem has not yet been solved fully. Here is what Mikhail Demurin, deputy chief of the Operative Information Directorate of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, told our correspondent, Ivan Rudich.

[Begin recording] [Demurin] As you know, during the recent visit to Afghanistan by Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev, Prime Minister Hekmatyar promised to release several former Soviet servicemen who were being held by one of his detachments. It was agreed that the Russian consul general and Afghan representatives would be sent to the area where the detachment of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan was stationed. We are following the development of this action as closely as we can, and we hope it will be successful.

[Rudich] Are there precise figures on how many are still alive, how many might be returned home?

[Demurin] That question is being monitored constantly, but considering the situation in Afghanistan, I think the accuracy of any figures is relative. The question is being studied all the time—certain new components are emerging, and we are following it most attentively. That is the only answer I can give.

[Rudich] But we are unable to monitor the situation precisely, where people are, who is still there?

[Demurin] I do not think anyone is able to monitor the situation in Afghanistan precisely at the moment. The situation there is extremely complex; a wide range of forces is at work.

[Rudich] What are the Afghan representatives themselves saying regarding our prisoners of war? Are they quoting any figure, where they are, how they are being kept?

[Demurin] The Afghan side is citing some of its own figures, although I would emphasize that in this instance these were the figures cited by Hekmatyar. There are other forces and groupings in Afghanistan which could also supplement the information on this question. All these figures, as I have already said, are being studied and compared, we are working on the basis of them. Of course we have our own generalized figures, and the Afghan side has its own generalized figures. New information is being received. I want to emphasize this point, that it would be wrong to stop at any one figure, there are always hopes that there might be someone else, that someone else might be saved. The work can never stop. [end recording]

Not being bound by diplomatic protocol, we will venture to cite some figures we have at our disposal. They are unofficial and approximate, but they do give a more specific idea of the essence of the issue. In all, the matter concerns approximately 300 former Soviet soldiers. More or less definite information exists on between 60 and 80 of them. The accord on liberation reached during Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Afghanistan concerns only those prisoners held by Hekmatyar. According to the information we have, three of them have refused to return home for religious reasons.

Agreement Confirms $63 Million Debt to Thailand

BK2509013993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Sep 93 p 17

[By John Helmer in Moscow; from the "Business Post" section]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan has signed an agreement with the Russian Government which reconfirms some $63 million in overdue debt Russia owes Thailand but leaves open more talks on the payment terms.

Thai and Russian officials told Business Post that the memorandum of understanding, which was signed for the Russian side by Aleksandr Shokhin, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, achieved "a full understanding" and "a very satisfactory outcome".

Mr Amnuai left Moscow for London and Bangkok after signing the agreement on Wednesday night and was not available for comment.

Officials from the two delegations said that in Mr Amnuai's talks with Mr Shokhin and Ivan Materov, Acting Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, the problem of Russia's debt to Thailand was fully considered.

The current debt is $63 million, plus accumulating interest, which is owed on a December 1990 loan to the then Soviet Union for rice purchases.

A further rice purchase loan worth $200 million, signed in February 1992, is due for payment early next year.

No agreement was reached on when the 1990 loan will be repaid. An earlier agreement that Moscow would make an installment payment of about $15 million was discarded.

That decision apparently was news to politicians in Bangkok. On Wednesday, Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon had said that Russia would pay the $15 million. Mr Uthai said he learned this from Commerce officials who had accompanied Mr Amnuai to Moscow.

"Payment (of cash) is prohibited by Paris Club terms," said Andrey Ambartsumian, the chief Russian negotiator for rice purchases, referring to the April agreement between Russia and 17 creditor states which provides for rescheduling of Russia's government-to-government debts.

The Paris Club agreement obligates the Russian Government to limit debt settlements with other state creditors, such as Thailand, to terms that are not more favourable than those agreed with the Paris Club.

A senior Russian trade official said the new bilateral agreement had solved the credit problem. Other officials were more cautious.

The Thai Government has agreed to receive a delegation of Russian government experts in October. At that time, both sides have undertaken to discuss details of future trade based on a combination of credit and barter.

Officials declined to say whether Thailand had formally agreed to defer debt repayment.

While the Thai side wound up Mr Amnuai's visit with optimism for the prospects of expanding trade with Russia, Mr Ambartsumian was reluctant to predict when talks on new rice purchases might begin. "The new rice purchase cannot be soon," he said.

ROK Warships End Visit to Vladivostok

LD2509111493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0115 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Excerpt] Vladivostok, 25 Sep—The frigates Ulsan and Kyong Nam today left Golden Horn Bay after the first ever visit to Russia by naval vessels of the Republic of Korea. [passage omitted]

Results of Polls on Foreign Policy Issues Viewed

LD2609172893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1445 GMT 26 Sep 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] [Announcer Sergey Kozhukhov] At the request of "Panorama," the All-Russian Center for Studying Public Opinion has prepared a selection of recent polls where foreign policy issues were mentioned in some connection or other. Here are the results. Perhaps the only issue about which Russians think alike is that of the participation of our Army in conflicts outside Russia's borders. To the question on whether the Armed Forces should get involved in peacemaking operations in Yugoslavia and Somalia, the response was as follows:

In Yugoslavia: for—5 percent; against—85 percent; hard to say—10 percent.

In Somalia: for—3 percent; against —85 percent; hard to say—12 percent.

I personally was surprised to see the answers to an even more surprising question, which was:

What is your general attitude to Japan? very good—20 percent; more good than bad—58 percent; more bad than good—6 percent; very bad—only 2 percent; not sure—14 percent.

Since everybody is so fond of Japan, one can only wonder why a mere mention of the ill-fated [Kuril] islands provokes such fits of public allergy? Isn't it a well-known fact that we don't begrudge anything to a loved one?

On the whole, questions relating to foreign politics were on the margins of public interest.

Yeltsin Orders 'Presidential Control' Bulletin

LD2409113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 24 ITAR-TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation on Friday [24 October] ordered to institute a "Presidential Control" Information bulletin.

An executive order to this effect, circulated by the presidential press service, points out in particular that the institution of the above-mentioned bulletin is entrusted to the administration of the president.

The Ministry of the Press and Information has been instructed to ensure the registration of the bulletin. "The main tasks of the 'Presidential Control' Information Bulletin shall be systematically to cover the activities of central and regional control agencies in practical exercise of presidential control, to generalise experience in controlling work and to render methodological assistance", the executive order said.

It has been made incumbent on the presidential administration chief to approve an editorial board of the Information Bulletin, to set up an editorial office of the publication within the juridical literature publishing-house and to decide on how often the bulletin will appear, and what will be the volume, a print run and distribution of the Bulletin and, in coordination with the Russian Finance Ministry, decide on how the bulleting will be financed.

Issues Decrees on Appointments

LD2409192993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1911 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree appointing Lieutenant-General Vladimir Zhurbenko first deputy chief of staff of the Russian Armed Forces.

In a separate decree, Sergey Nikolayevich Almazov has been appointed director of the Department of Taxation Police of the Russian Federation.

Signs Decree on Currency, Export Control

LD2409225293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1850 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, has signed a decree on the Federal Service for Currency and Export Control.

It is established that the service's main task is to pursue a single state policy in the field of control and supervision over the observance of the legislation of the Russian Federation as regards currency, export-import, and other foreign trade operations. The service is also to implement an interbranch coordination and the regulation of issues within its competence, and to ensure control and supervision over the observance of the legislation by ministries, departments, organizations, and enterprises which are involved in regulating and carrying out currency, export-import, and other foreign trade operations. ITAR-TASS was informed of this by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Signs Decree on Bread Allowances

LD2509083193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 25 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree today: "On Bread Allowances for Citizens on Low Income." It says, in particular, that the payment of allowances "is aimed at social protection of citizens on low income in connection with the forthcoming liberalization of prices for bread and bread products." The decree comes into force from the moment of its signing.

Regional Affairs

Situation Deteriorates in North Ossetia

LD2409142593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 24 TASS—The situation in the North Ossetian area where a state of emergency is in effect, has deteriorated.

At midday, local resident Mashalbiy Abayev was killed from a submachine gun in the settlement of Chernorechenskoya on the outskirts of Vladikavkaz.

An Omon brigade (riot police) was summoned to the scene of the accident. One of the cars carrying Omon servicemen exploded as it ran into an anti-tank mine on the way to the place. As a result of the explosion, Anatoliy Kuchiyev, a servicemen of a military fire brigade, was killed and driver Sergey Konyayev was heavily wounded.

In connection with the sharp deterioration of the situation on the territory of North Ossetia, the Ossetian Security Council held a meeting today, chaired by the head of the Ossetian Parliament, Akhsarbek Glazov. He said that taking advantage of a tense political situation in Russia, bandit armed formations are seeking to build up tension in the zone of the state of emergency.

Later in the day, members of the North Ossetian Security Council met with the head of the temporary administration Vladimir Lozov. Special attention was drawn to enhancing contacts between the temporary administration, Russian interior troops units, the leadership of North Ossetia and local law enforcement bodies to normalize the situation in the region.

N. Ossetia Journalists Warned Not To Aggravate Situation

LD2609140993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 26 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 26 TASS—The press centre of the North Ossetian parliament on Sunday [26 September] circulated a statement by the provisional administration on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia in connection with recent articles about so-called journalistic inquiries into the causes of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict and the assassination of Viktor Polyanichko.

By drawing on non-verified facts and setting out numerous judgements about the conflict and the assassination of Viktor Polyanichko and without taking trouble to verify rumours, the writers of such articles willy-nilly provoke an aggravation of the situation in the emergency zone. The statement denies a number of reports on which some articles were based.

The provisional administration earnestly requests journalists to refrain from hasty conclusions and from writing articles that aggravate the already complex situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

State of Emergency Introduced in 2 Ingush Villages

LD2409135093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Ingush President Ruslan Aushev has introduced a state of emergency in the predominantly Russian villages of Karabulak and Troitskoye. The president's press service told Interfax that this measure had been taken in response to individual forces' attempts to destabilize the situation in Ingushetia by manipulating ethnic Russians.

The president's Press Secretary Hussain Barakhoyev told Interfax on Friday [24 September] that among the reasons for introducing the state of emergency is a high crime rate in these villages.

Fuel, Food Supplies to Far North Face Disruption

LD2609135693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Some news from the regions of the far north of Russia. The delivery of fuel and food to the area is in imminent danger of being disrupted, Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Association of Entrepreneurs for a new Russia, told journalists yesterday at a news conference yesterday. According to him, no more than 40 percent of the necessary fuel and food has been delivered to Russia's northern regions, and if deliveries have not been fully completed in two- three weeks' time, then about 20 million northerners may find themselves on the verge of starvation this winter.

Tatar Parliamentary Chief Discusses Federalism

LD2409115893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1247 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Interview with Tatarstan parliamentary chairman Farid Mukhametshin, by Gyuzel Fazullina; place and date not given—from "Exclusive" Report No. 37]

[Text] An international conference ended recently in Kazan, capital of Tatarstan, by discussing the concept of federalism both in global and Russian dimensions. Its organizers—The Tatar Parliament and local Academy of Sciences—maintained the forum's aim was to try to find an optimal federal structure rather than scholarly grounds for the international recognition of the Tatar Government's position. Nonetheless, speakers at the Forum outlined the substance of a constitutional clause on relations between Moscow and Kazan and Tatarstan's own vision of a new federation. To find more, our correspondent Gyuzel Fazullina interviewed Parliamentary Chairman Farid Mukhametshin.

INTERFAX: Tatarstan is still being accused of aiming to wreck the Russian Federation and triggering off separatist trends. However, Kazan denies this saying it does not encroach on Russia's integrity or seek to reform it. What sort of a federal structure is envisaged by Tatarstan?

MUKHAMETSHIN: The process of decentralization is not without grounds and that is why the Federation must be reformed. In our view, the basis of this stage of reform is imperative rather than coming down to the sacramental phrase "take as many powers from the center as you can possibly afford". Regrettably, this approach has failed to be duly reflected in a draft new constitution.

We think the new Federation must rest upon the following principles:

1. All of the Federation's sovereign parts must be equal regardless of size, population or economic potential.

2. The administrative-territorial entities (territories and regions) as well as national-territorial autonomies (autonomous regions and territories) enjoy sovereignty within their boundaries.

3. The federal subjects shall initially devolve an agreed minimum of powers and property to the center in line with the constitution and of their own accord but on the basis of relevant treaties and agreements.

4. The whole of the treaty-fixed constitutional process of building a new federation must start from below, with regions and autonomies devolving powers to the center rather the reverse.

5. The regions and autonomies are the source forming the new federation and its sovereignty.

Apart from a certain amount of powers, each subject is also entitled to delegate further economic, administrative or other management functions to the center. The powers of an individual subject can be either widened or

curtailed depending on a bilateral agreement with the center which amounts to a different degree of association with the center, that is the principle of an asymmetric federation.

The linkage of some entities with the center will be minimal while that of others practically the same as now. This will provide for flexibility and multiple forms of the association with the federation as a new entity.

The main goal of the new federation is to promote the more effective functioning and development by regions and autonomies rather than the arrangement of subordinate relations between the founders. Without a loss of their inherent quality, the regions and autonomies will form a new sovereign state by vesting it with appropriate authority to carry out domestic and external functions. In the meantime, each subject of the federation retains its own legal and political identity which means the quality of sovereign statehood to the national republics and that of federation founders to administrative-territorial units lacking their own state sovereignty.

INTERFAX: How do you interpret the principle of an asymmetric federation with the equality of its subjects?

MUKHAMETSHIN: Kazan's understanding of an equal status to all federation subject is different from Moscow's. The concept of federalism laid down in the new basis law drawn by the Constitutional Conference provides for the subjects' equality in relation to the center. However, the equality is later interpreted only in one way: none of the subjects is supposed to go beyond the framework of the federal constitution and laws which provides for the unity of state power with all implications to follow. Wherein lies the place for sovereign rights of peoples? And what is to be done with the right to law-making by sovereign republics ? Does this mean a reversal to the times of a unitary state when laws could be adopted only within the framework of a clearly-defined corridor?

The concept of equality as understood by Kazan proceeds from a premise that all sovereign republics have equal rights but each disposes of them in its own way: some republics will retain maximum authority and rights while others may prefer to give them away to the center depending on their possibilities.

We are convinced that the only way of keeping the Russian Federation together lies in its asymmetric shape enshrined in treaties and the constitution. This is something we stand for.

Real powers are needed not only by Tatarstan but by Russian regions as well. In a democratic society, no territory must be denied its rights. There is much talk about the need to raise the regions' status to that of the republics which in itself is both understandable and justified. Economically more powerful regions are in need of additional powers. Some regions are trying thereby to counter further centralization and guarantee themselves against Moscow's much too often ill-conceived policies drawn up by other than themselves but whose effects they have to bear in full.

In reality, both the national and administrative-territorial entities may enjoy an approximately the same set of rights and authority, though the origin of these is different. For national republics, this is part of their state sovereignty which is nothing but the implementation of the people's inalienable right to self-determination. As a result, the national republics are free to dispose of their rights by transferring part of them to the center on the basis of bilateral treaties or agreements.

As for territories and regions, they are not sovereign state entities that the Russian Federation as a whole enjoys state sovereignty. That is why the center concentrates all sovereign rights. The territories and regions are administrative-territorial units functioning on the basis of rights and authority devolved from the center.

Given the difference in their economic might, is it necessary to vest all regions and territories with equal rights? This is an economic aspect. But there is one other aspect. Many regions have a multi-ethnic composition including Samara, Chelyabinsk, Niznii Novgorod and Yekaterinburg. Unlike mono-ethnic regions such as Belgorod or Voronezh, these are in need of extra powers to help resolve their ethnic problems.

INTERFAX: Presumably, Tatar leaders appear to believe their republic is prepared better than other republics for greater autonomy. What is the substance of Tatarstan's so called special position?

MUKHAMETSHIN: The Republic's constitution enshrines the fundamental principle of forming entirely new relations with other states. The constitution's article 61 says Tatarstan is a sovereign state and subject of international law associated with the Russian Federation through a bilateral treaty which provides for mutual devolution of powers and property.

To begin with, as befits the republic's new status the would be bilateral treaty is designed to determine the shape of an entirely different association — One of sovereign states resting on the delegation of certain powers and property to each other. Secondly, Tatarstan does not devolve powers to the center unilaterally. Coming to the fore here is the principle of equality. The treaty is to be concluded not with the regions or territories but the with the Russian Federation as a whole, that is, Tatarstan is seeking equality with the Federation as a whole.

This principle can be violated if the constitution enshrines the republic's status as part of the Russian Federation because no part can equal the whole. To implement the principle of genuine equality, the treaty must be concluded between two independent entities. This principle is laid down in Tatarstan's constitution.

Next. The associated membership will help accent Tatarstan's desire to live in alliance with the Russian Federation and beef up the historical ties and relations between the republics. This is not a form of unity but a degree of association to be determined by the bilateral treaty.

In the fourth place, as international entity Tatarstan opens relations with other states, concludes international agreements, exchanges consular and trade missions and takes part in the activity of international agencies in line with international law and the U.N. Charter.

And finally, the new pattern of cooperation between our states must be based on a solid footing of real not formal equality.

We believe everything must be done to make the policy of muscle- flexing and ultimatums as the manifestation of a unitary state a thing of the past. All of this may well describe Tatarstan's special position as far as its approaches to the establishment of a really democratic Russian Federation are concerned.

Draft Plan for Urals Republic Passed in Pervouralsk

MK2509121793 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 25 Sep 93 p 2

[Valeriya Ochinyan report: "Urals Republic's Constitution. Oblast Soviet May Pass Urals Constitution"]

[Excerpts] The heads of soviets and administrations of all levels of Sverdlovsk Oblast held a two-day coordination conference, which ended in Pervouralsk on 24 September and adopted as a basis a proposed draft for the creation of the Urals Republic.

During the 25 April 1993 referendum, 83.5 percent of voters in Sverdlovsk Oblast voted for upgrading the status of the oblast to that of a republic within Russia. The Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet passed the declaration on the proclamation of the Urals Republic on 1 July 1993, and as early as 14 September, heads of soviets and administrations in Chelyabinsk, Perm, Orenburg, and Kurgan Oblasts signed a joint statement expressing their readiness to start work on uniting into a Urals Republic. [passage omitted]

The conference in Pervouralsk demonstrated that the people in the Urals intend to step up work to create a Urals Republic. Remarkably, despite fears on both sides, the project has served to promote an even closer rapport between the local executive and legislative powers. Participants in the conference recommended raising the question of passing a constitution at the session of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet scheduled for 28 September. [article contains the following boxed text]

The Main Principles Incorporated in the Draft Urals Republic Constitution

- Supremacy of Russia's laws and financial system

- Retention of the administrative-territorial borders of the oblasts forming the Urals Republic

- The Republic is part of the single territory of Russia and inseparable from it

- Customs borders will be shared with Russia

- Approval of the Republic will by the local and federal institutions of legislative power

Gaydar, Shakhray Differ Over Chelyabinsk Oblast Chief

MK2609052493 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 57, 25 Sep 93 (signed to press 24 Sep) p 2

[Zhanna Trofimova report: "Chelyabinsk Conflict Reaches Federal Level. Central Bank's Local Administration Obstructs Viktor Gerashchenko's Orders"]

[Text] The prolonged history of dual power in Chelyabinsk Oblast has recently reached the highest government spheres. Yegor Gaydar, who assumed the post of first deputy prime minister in the Russian Federation Government last week, said that the removal of Vadim Solovyev and the accession of the "pro-communist" Petr Sumin to power would take place "only over his (Gaydar's) dead body." Thus, two government members locked horns on the subject. Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray holds a diametrically opposite view and, according to informed sources, belongs to "hard-line Suminites."

In Chelyabinsk itself, the situation is getting more and more exotic. According to Boris Mizrakhi, deputy oblast administration chief, Vadim Solovyev learned recently that the financial blocking of the "presidential" oblast administration was to have ceased 10 days ago. It turned out that the Central Bank's local main administration received Viktor Gerashchenko's telegram on unfreezing the bank accounts of the oblast administration under Vadim Solovyev. However, Sergey Danilenko, acting chief of the Central Bank's Chelyabinsk Oblast administration, took great pains to hide Mr. Gerashchenko's telegram. Although the telegram was finally unearthed, Mr. Danilenko still refuses to unfreeze Vadim Solovyev's accounts, citing the results of the April election in the oblast, which was won by Petr Sumin.

International Affairs

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian Disavowal of Treaty

LD2409132693 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1120 GMT 24 Sep 93

["Statement by Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry on Russian Federation's Decision to Denounce Massandra Protocol"—UNIAR headline]

[Text] Kiev, 24 September—The Russian Foreign Ministry has made public the press report on denouncing "The Protocol on Withdrawal of All Nuclear Warheads Deployed in Ukraine to the Russian Federation," signed on 3 September of this year in the Crimea, citing the fact that corrections, made by hand, were easily noticeable in a photocopy of the document, published recently in the KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI newspaper, which allegedly changed the contents of the accord reached altogether.

In connection with the above, the press center of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry is authorized to state the following.

In violation of customary diplomatic practice, members of the Russian delegation presented the prime ministers of Ukraine and Russia with a version of the text for signing that was not the one discussed and agreed by experts of the delegations.

In as far as the text presented for signing contained points that did not meet Ukraine's national interests, the representatives of the Ukrainian side made the said changes in the presence of and with the agreement of the representatives of Russia. There were no objections, and moreover no protests, on the part of the Russian side. The document was not retyped for technical reasons.

The fact causes surprise that it is said in the press release by the Russian Foreign Ministry that the Russian side immediately annulled this protocol officially, having allegedly notified representatives of Ukraine. The latter does not correspond with reality at all. It is unclear why in that case it took the Russian side 14 days to issue a statement on denouncing the protocol and why such an influential state as Russia chose such an unusual way in diplomatic practice as a press release.

The Ukrainian side considers that the above press release lacks objectivity, distorts the actual events, and is just a clumsy attempt to discredit groundlessly one of the members of the Ukrainian delegation.

Defense Ministry Refutes Report on Clashes

LD2409230193 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1920 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] [No dateline as received] The press center of Ukraine's Defense Ministry made public a statement on 24 September in which it refuted a commentary by the press center of the Black Sea Fleet on a clash betweeen a marine subunit of Ukraine's Naval Forces and land troops of the Black Sea Fleet on 18 September. In particular, the statement by the press center of the Black Sea Fleet dwelled on two attacks which had allegedly been carried out by the marines against the soldiers of a Black Sea Fleet shore defense tank division. The Black Sea Fleet command put the entire responsibility for these incidents on the Defense Ministry of Ukraine.

"As it turned out in the course of the investigation, the hints about the involvement of the general staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces in this case were groundless. As a matter of fact, there was an instance of non-statutory relations between the servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet and the Naval Forces of Ukraine of a personal nature [pobutovoho planu]."

Defense Ministry Said Privatizing Black Sea Units

LD2409225893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The leadership of Ukraine's Defense Ministry is taking advantage of the difficult political situation in Russia to start privatizing the units and facilities of the Black Sea Fleet at an accelerated rate. Meanwhile, despite the preliminary accord between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, the Union of Ukrainian Naval Officers has demanded that the Black Sea Fleet be divided up immediately and the Russian Federation's part withdrawn beyond the borders of the republic. The fleet commander, Admiral Eduard Baltin, has declared in this connection that if this does not cease, the Black Sea Fleet will be put on full combat alert.

Defense Minister, British Counterpart Discuss Ties

LD2409213493 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1628 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Oleksiy Trotsenko]

[Text] The schedule of the official visit to Ukraine by Malcolm Rifkind, secretary of state for defense of Great Britain, was packed with important meetings, negotiations, and visits. The results of the visit, especially its importance for both sides and for security in Europe, were discussed at the news conference held in Kiev on 24 September. Ukraine's Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov and Malcolm Rifkind spoke to Ukrainian and foreign journalists.

This is the first visit by the leader of the military department of Great Britain to Ukraine. We view it as evidence of respect on the part of the British side for the young Ukrainian state, our state's defense minister declared at the beginning of the news conference. He also underlined that during negotiations the sides arrived at a common conclusion: our countries can do a lot to ensure peace and stability in Europe. On our part, stated Kostyantyn Morozov, we expressed gratitude to the English side for its principled stand on the inviolability of the existing borders in Europe and the preservation of the

territorial integrity of states. This fully complies with the spirit of cooperation and partnership.

In the opinion of Ukraine's defense minister, the visit to our country by his British counterpart opens up broad prospects not only for the development of contacts in the military field but it will also promote the consolidation of trust and security in Europe as a whole.

The British minister completely agreed with the assessments given by his Ukrainian counterpart. I consider my visit to Ukraine, he said, to be one of the most significant visits I have paid in my capacity of defense minister. He also expressed certainty that in due course Ukraine will occupy its proper place in Europe and will play its role in solving important problems on our continent. The cooperation initiated today between the ministries of Great Britain and Ukraine will also serve to promote this cause.

Recalling that at present the servicemen of both countries are fulfilling their humanitarian duty in Bosnia, the guest declared that several years ago one could not even think about this. I am happy that we are now true friends and can work together on a developing new Europe.

The ministers replied to numerous questions from journalists.

Czech Military Delegation Visits for Talks

AU2709093293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Sep 93 p 4

[Report by the Ministry of Defense Press Service: "Military Contacts Are Expanding"]

[Text] On 21 September 1993, the chief of the Main Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces and first deputy minister of defense, Colonel General Anatoliy Lopata, received a military delegation of the Czech Republic headed by Major General Radovan Prochazka, chief of Military Defense Intelligence at the General Headquarters of the Czech Republic Army.

The sides exchanged information on the state of the armed forces of their states, discussed specific military issues, and spoke in favor of forms of cooperation that would promote further development of mutually advantageous contacts between the military departments of Ukraine and Czechia.

The military attache at the Czech Embassy in Ukraine, Colonel Cyril Rogoznik, took part in the meeting.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Holds News Conference on CIS Talks, Elections

LD2509203293 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1343 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Report by special correspondent Viktor Demydenko]

[Text] Ukraine's president held a news conference after his return to Kiev from Moscow.

Leonid Kravchuk disproved assertions that Ukraine, as had been declared at a news conference in Moscow, allegedly signed the treaty on economic union in the capacity as an associate member. The thing is, he pointed out, that all the meeting participants do not know themselves what an associate member is. In other words, the status of such membership has not been worked out.

We did not sign the treaty, because this could be done by full members of the economic union only. We signed a statement on Ukraine joining the economic union in the capacity as an associate member. All the heads of state agreed to this. Therefore, Ukraine can take part in the work of the union and also in the preparation of all documents as an associate member. It is also necessary to remember that 35 agreements are still to be worked out so as to make this treaty "work" at full capacity.

The peculiarity of the situation is in the fact that, as early as tomorrow, Ukraine can get down to the elaboration and signing of those agreements that are economically beneficial to us and that do not encroach on the interests of the state. We take part in the economic, mutually advantageous relations—exercising all the rights that exist today within the framework of the CIS—and cooperate with the Commonwealth countries.

It is currently necessary to analyze the debts of the former Union, its assets and liabilities. This is a whole problem, and it needs to be studied in detail. A commission has already been set up that will study the structure of these debts and their nature. As far as the economic union is concerned, it only sets conditions for normal cooperation. If these conditions are to the benefit of Ukraine, if these 35 or 20 or five documents start working and people feel that this does not threaten us either with the loss of economic sovereignty or the loss of other levers of statehood, then one can speak about the next move.

It is necessary to move toward genuine cooperation within the framework of the economic union on new principles, on market principles. There must be complete freedom at the level of enterprises. Everything is more complicated at the state level. I do not see any loss of sovereign rights at the level of enterprises; however, at the state level, it is necessary to calculate where the state has freedom and where its freedom is restricted. Meanwhile, the accession to the union—whether you like it or not—will certainly take away a part of the rights to a certain extent. It never happens otherwise. There will be no common benefit if everyone joins the union and cares about his own benefits only. We must coordinate it in such a way that there would be common interests. The sovereignty of states is a determinant.

Replying to a question from a UKRINFORM correspondent concerning further developments in Ukraine in connection with the adoption of a decision by the Supreme Council on early elections of people's deputies and the president of Ukraine, Kravchuk pointed out that a very

important step had been made. In the end, common sense gained the upper hand. In the president's opinion, this is the beginning of a civilized solution to a difficult tangle of political problems. This is a beginning only. The Supreme Council must confirm this decision by adopting relevant documents—above all, the law on elections—because the law on the election of the president does exist. Thus, it will reaffirm the fact that it not just adopted a decision on the elections but that it really wants them to take place. People will believe in this. It is necessary to take action. The main thing is that we reached this solution in a civilized and democratic manner.

Kravchuk agreed with the fact that attempts to set up a strong government have so far ended in a failure. In his opinion, there are people in Ukraine who can organize the economy and act decisively. But the political situation that took shape must be taken into account. There was an attempt to form the government from managerial structures, directors, and representatives of the so-called democratic wing. They are absolutely opposed in their opinions and actions. Again, this does not allow us to work in a single direction. Therefore, we have had a government until now, but we have had no team of like-minded people who could embark on the road of reforms and transformations and move along this road to its very end.

Much depends on the head of the government, on his stand. We should bear in mind that, at present, in connection with the elections, we will create the government for six months. If the early elections of the Supreme Council take place on 27 March, then a new government will have to be formed as early as the beginning of April. This means that now one should not set the task to change everything. It is necessary to make use of the competence of those people who work. Because, if a new deputy prime minister, for example, is appointed, he will need at least three or four months to learn the state of affairs. We must bear this in mind.

At present, I am concerned about how to preserve Ukraine, how to prevent it from splitting in views and actions, the president stressed. When I took part in the Supreme Council session two days ago, I had an opportunity to observe how the deputies learned to play on people's sentiments, how they learned political balance tricks over these years and absolutely forgot that they must adopt laws. This is the most dangerous thing. If everybody understood that it is necessary to struggle for Ukraine today, if everybody applied their efforts toward that end, then the people—despite everything, despite the burden they bear and the economic setbacks—would see that the deputies do not care about themselves. They do not play politics. They do not play parties, which—by the way—are only in the making now, but they think about how to preserve the state, the land, and how to ensure the mechanisms for innovation. They would forgive everything. They will not forgive, however, if this does not happen .

Touching on the events in Russia, Ukraine's president pointed out that, in his opinion, Boris Yeltsin is in control of the situation in the central bodies of power. He enjoys the support of the executive power bodies of Moscow and other regions of Russia. But Russia is so large that it is difficult to assert something definitely. Kravchuk went on to say that the course chosen by Yeltsin and the government—and I will not dwell on its legal, democratic, and other consequences—is the course forward, the course toward a new life. According to Yeltsin, Russia wants to be a new state, enjoying equal rights with other.

I support the course toward the new life of a new Russia, that would enjoy equal rights, be equal with Ukraine, would respect it, respect its people and culture, and regard it as a state.

Party Leaders View Associate Status in CIS Union

LD2609200393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the People's Movement Rukh, has expressed doubt as to whether Ukraine's associate membership in the economic union would comply with the interests of our state. This is why the People's Movement Rukh has a negative attitude toward Ukraine's accession to this union. The leader of the organization stated that this was a method of drawing Ukraine into a new union, a reproduction of the Soviet Union. Chornovil believes that only bilateral agreements on certain specific trends of cooperation should be concluded.

I think that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk had no right to sign the treaty on economic union. This was declared by People's Deputy Levko Horokhivskyy, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party. In his opinion, all the articles of the treaty are unprofitable for Ukraine. None has any proof and substantiation. Horokhivskyy emphasized the need to be consistent in assessing and approaching the economic union. One of the leaders of the Ukrainian Republican Party said that the issue on Ukraine's associated membership in the CIS economic union will be considered at the next sitting of the party leadership. In case of a negative assessment, as Horokhivskyy stressed, he would insist that the Republican Party oppose the president.

The president had the opportunity not to hurry while taking the decision concerning the economic union. Vitaliy Kononov, chairman of the Green Party, stated this in an interview for the television and radio agency Novynyy. In his opinion, it is unambiguously clear that it would be easier to accede to the economic union than to secede from it. As far as the official stand of the Green Party is concerned, its leader pointed out, this question is being examined and a relevant statement will be made on the basis of an analysis of the documents.

There is no need for those forces, which come out against restricting Ukraine's sovereignty, to fuel panic around Ukraine's associate membership in the economic union. This has been stated by Larysa Skoryk, chairperson of the Nationwide Movement of Ukraine. In her opinion, the treaty contains a whole number of provisions that are

absolutely unprofitable for Ukraine, but Kiev, having joined the agreements as an associate member, has full right not to fulfill those articles that it had reservations about. Skoryk believes that there would have been more variants to choose what kind of a union to join, and in what form, if Ukraine were not so dependent on power sources through the fault of ex-Prime Minister Kuchma's government.

Nationalists Denounce Treaty

LD2609201793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] The council of the Donetsk organization of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists [CUN] adopted a statement at its sitting today. In it, the CUN expresses its negative attitude toward the statement signed by the president on Ukraine's accession to the economic union in the capacity of an associate member, primarily because all previous agreements in the framework of the CIS remained mere pieces of paper. We are convinced, the statement says, that only bilateral treaties based on equality can work today, while attempts at creating a new colonial empire are doomed to failure. We regard the signing of the statement on Ukraine's accession to the economic union as an attempt by Ukraine's president to reach concord and consolidate different forces in our society.

Left-Wing Groups Want Political, Military Union

LD2609141993 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0950 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Kharkov, 25 Sep [date as received]— On the initiative of the political forces of left-wing orientation (Communist Party; Socialist Party; All-Union Communist Party; bolsheviks; Communist Initiative movement) of Kharkov Oblast a meeting was held with the participation of about 200-300 people. The main demand of the participants was the unconditional signing of not only an economic union but also a military and political union within the framework of the CIS. A resolution adopted at the meeting contained a demand to cancel the institution of the presidency in Ukraine and hold early elections to councils at all levels on an industry and area basis.

Supreme Council Discusses Draft Constitution

LD2409204693 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1420 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 24 Sep—Following approval of the Supreme Council resolution on holding fresh elections to the Supreme Council and for president, the deputies considered a draft new constitution. As was pointed out by Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council, the proposed draft new Constitution acknowledges and guarantees the right to citizenship, the right to freedom and inviolability of the person, free choice of place of residence, and the right to access to any kind of information.

Equality of all forms of ownership and management and social orientation of the economy are envisaged. Multipartyism is guaranteed in Ukraine with the simultaneous guarantee of equal rights for citizens and their associations to participate in the political life of the state. A provision about the state language in Ukraine has also been restored. However, it is envisaged that in places of compact residence of one or several national groups, the language acceptable to the majority of residents may be used at the state bodies and establishments as an official one along with the state language.

Ivan Plyushch stressed that emphasis was also laid on the fact that the constitution should be based on the supremacy of law. The issue of protection of citizens' lives against any illegal encroachment, using all legal means, arms included, has been resolved. With the aim of humanizing penalties, the use of capital punishment has been restricted.

Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the board of the National Bank, reported on behalf of the National Bank of Ukraine on the issue of granting credits to agriculture. In particular, he pointed out that the 1.2 trillion karbovantsi allocated by the National Bank is all that could be done in current conditions. Ivan Plyushch supported the stand of the National Bank.

The Supreme Council session will continue its work on 5 October.

Republican Party Leaders Comment on Election Call

LD2509124293 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0730 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 24 Sep—Mykhaylo Horyn, chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party, his deputy Levko Horokhivskyy, and Mykola Horbal, chairman of the Kiev regional organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party, called a news conference on the outcome of the decision by the Supreme Council to hold new elections for the Supreme Council and the president. The decision to hold elections, emphasized Horyn, demonstrated the unity of the national democratic forces. "It was probably the first time that the Army and the militia were with the people." Horbal observed on this subject that people had gone for this step spontaneously, and that the slogan "Freedom or death" had foundation. Regarding the elections, which will take place in the spring of 1994, Mykhaylo Horyn stressed that they would change the situation in Ukraine. "If the Ukrainian president signs the economic union, the Ukrainian Republican Party leader observed, then this will be a step toward losing our state's independence. Therefore, the Ukrainian Republican Party is prepared to oppose it."

Asked by a UNIAR correspondent about the discussion by the Supreme Council on the draft of the new constitution, in particular whether this would not lead to conflict in the Crimea, Horyn replied that should a new constitution be approved, it should be coordinated with the Crimean constitution—a state of ambiguity cannot continue for long, he observed.

Crimean Democratic Groups Support Early Elections

LD2609181593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] A conference of Ukrainian democratic organizations in the northern region of Crimea remaining in Krasnoperekopsk have issued a statement with regard to the latest political developments in Ukraine. In particular, it expresses support for the decision made by the Supreme Council on early parliamentary and presidential elections. The fact that President Leonid Kravchuk eventually did not endorse Ukraine's full membership in the economic community is regarded as a positive factor.

However, the statement notes, a certain amount of tension still remains around the problems regarding the Black Sea Fleet. We believe, the statement says, that all discriminatory agreements with Russia concerning the Black Sea Fleet must be denounced.

Sevastopol Residents Said Losing Hope for Russian Help

MK2509143093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 93 p 3

[Aleksey Bushuyev report under the "Crimea" rubric: "Sevastopol Hopes for No Help. Moscow Has Other Things To Attend To"]

[Text] Residents of Sevastopol hoped until recently that the issue of Sevastopol and the Crimea would soon be resolved in favor of Russia. Now the hope is growing thin: Russia is too preoccupied to concern itself with Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet. It should be said that whereas the statements at Black Sea Fleet officers' meetings backed the stance Boris Yeltsin took at the talks in Massandra, many Black Sea Fleet servicemen are now sympathizing with the Russian Supreme Soviet. Activists of the Sevastopol branch of the National Salvation Front and the Russian People's Council elected this past summer by the Popular Assembly [Narodnoye Veche] expressed their solidarity with the Russian Supreme Soviet. They held a rally unsanctioned by the local authorities in support of the Russian Supreme Soviet. If one is to speak about possible repercussions of the Moscow developments in Ukraine, one can already now suppose with a great measure of confidence that regardless of how they may end, neither Leonid Kravchuk nor the opponents of closer relations with Russia are going to lose out. Already today statements are being heard in Ukraine that "Moscow has exposed itself; look what it has done to democracy." What sort of economic or, even more so, political union one can speak about in a similar situation? Can you trust such an unstable state as Russia? Undoubtedly, all these things will be exploited to deal a blow both to the internal opposition and to try and bolster the shaky presidential power in Ukraine. In this situation one can only sympathize with the Sevastopol City Soviet deputies who gathered on 21 September for a regular session, only to find themselves "running ahead of the locomotive." Having yielded to emotions, they voiced no confidence in the internal and external policy of Ukraine's current leaders and demanded the holding of early elections of a president and Supreme Soviet, Ukraine's accession to the CIS economic union, and the creation of a working group to study together with the Russian Federation and Belarus the question of signing a political union. The deputies also made some other decisions that President Kravchuk is clearly not going to like. The session suggested to the Supreme Soviet of Crimea and to the city soviet that they "determine a procedure for the operation of the Republic of Crimea's legislation on the territory of the city of Sevastopol until elections for Crimea's Supreme Soviet and a president of the Republic of Crimea." In the meantime, preparations are under way in many work collectives for the Ukrainian political strike scheduled for 28 September, which was announced by the congress of political parties, public organizations, and trade union associations of the republic. A strike committee of the Republic of Crimea has already been formed.

'Russian Party of Crimea' Holds First Congress

LD2709103293 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0715 GMt 27 Sep 93

[Text] Simferopol, 26 Sep—The Russian Party of Crimea, led by journalist Serhiy Shuvaynykov [name as received], people's deputy of the Crimean Supreme Council, held its first congress. Around 500 people took part in the work of the congress. They approved the party's rules and program. According to the program, the party has a left-wing socialist orientation. Serhiy Shuvaynykov was nominated as a candidate for the president of Crimea. The congress voiced support for the Russian parliament, branding Boris Yeltsin a "putschist."

Labor Congress Registers as New Party

LD2509132293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Another political party was registered at the Ukrainian Justice Ministry on 24 September—the Labor Congress of Ukraine [Trudovyy Konhres Ukrayiny]. This is the 28th party. Its statute notes that it will help build a democratic and just society based on universal human values. The Labor Congress of Ukraine will help improve the health of the economy and secure everyone's right to work.

Rules Approved To Fix Value of Privatized Enterprises

WS2709130493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has approved methods for determining the value of enterprises subject to privatization. These methods will be used to calculate bidding prices for enterprises, the size of the statute fund of the commercial partnership created in the privatization process, and the price of state enterprise property or its specific facilities. The property evaluation does not

include the land on which the enterprise is located, resources, and other elements of the environment. The methods cannot be applied to evaluate property in hard currency if the sale to foreign investors is not conducted on a contest or auction basis.

Citizens, Others Detained at Border Must Pay Costs

WS2709124893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has ruled that before the adoption of relevant legal acts, effective 20 September, foreign and Ukrainian citizens and individuals without citizenship detained by border troops for violating or attempting to violate the state border, and any people who may have instigated them to do so, must make payment for losses incurred by their detention, upkeep during detention, and deportation by paying from their personal funds with hard currency at the exchange rate quoted by the Ukrainian National Bank.

Security Forces Find Stolen Guided Missiles

LD2509105593 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0730 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Lugansk, 24 Sep—The combined tactical headquarters of the Ukrainian Security Service, military intelligence, and the military prosecutor's office have carried out an operation to find and seize antitank guided missiles, other weapons, and ammunition which had been stolen from a subunit of the Lugansk Garrison. The stolen weapons were found at the bottom of the Lugan River. The criminals were detained, and a criminal suit has been filed.

Kravchuk Issues Edict on New Military Call-Up

AU2609191393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Sep 93 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Dismissing Servicemen to the Reserve and New Call-Up of Citizens of Ukraine to the Regular Military Service" issued in Kiev on 20 September]

[Text] In conformity with Ukraine's law "On the General Military Duty and Military Service," I resolve as follows:

1. To dismiss to the reserve from the ranks of Ukraine's Armed Forces, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Security Service, Ukraine's Border Troops, Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs Internal and Escort Guard Troops, Ukraine's Civil Defense Troops, and the Black Sea Fleet in November-December 1993 and in January 1994 those servicemen who have completed their terms of regular military service.

2. To call up for regular military service in the ranks of Ukraine's Armed Forces, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Security Service, Ukraine's Border Troops, Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs Internal and Escort Guard Troops, Ukraine's Civil Defense Troops, and the Black Sea Fleet, in October-December 1993, those Ukraine's citizens of male sex who have turned 18 by the time of joining military units and who have no right to a deferment of their military service and also those citizens of older call-up age who no longer have the right to a deferment of their regular military service.

L. Kravchuk, Ukrainian President

Kiev, 20 September 1993

Regional Rukh Against TU-160 Transfer, Sale to Russia

AU2609214893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Should We Sell TU-160?"]

[Text] At its meeting, the regional council of the People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka] Chernihiv organization discussed with apprehension the problem of the transfer to Russia of 18 strategic heavy fighters TU-160 from the Pryluky air base. The point of view of Valeriy Horhol, commander of a regiment, was supported. At a meeting with deputies of the Pryluky City Council, while informing them about the work of experts on this question, he spoke against such actions. On 21 September, Rukh sent a letter to the president and minister of defense assessing intentions to transfer or sell the world's most advanced fighters as a weakening of Ukraine's defense capability. However, it is also no secret for anyone that, today, it may take more than a railroad car of fuel to enable a TU-160 to take off, something that may mean bankruptcy of the country's economy.

Zaporizhzhya Power Unit Closed for Routine Maintenance

AU2709125093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 24 Sep 93 p 2

[UKRINFORM report: "The Fourth Unit of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Station Has Been Shut Down for Routine Maintenance Work"]

[Text] As an UKRINFORM correspondent was told at the Information Center of the Zaporizhzhya AES [nuclear power station], on 22 September at 2300 the fourth power unit was shut down for routine maintenance work involving the replacement of fuel. All safety rules were adhered to. At present, the equipment is being cooled off. There were no violations of safety requirements during the shutting down of the unit. The radiation background in the area of the AES corresponds to the locality's natural radiation background. The unit may remain idle for 27 days.

Armenia

Karabakh Leader Leaves for Moscow Talks With Aliyev

NC240913589? Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1142 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 24 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic State Defense Committee, left for Moscow last night. Reliable sources say he will meet Vladimir Kazimirov, ambassador for special missions at the Russian Foreign Ministry. Then, a meeting will take place between Kocharyan and Geydar Aliyev with Kazimirov mediating. The main theme of the meeting will be to determine the deadline to complete the text of the cease-fire agreement.

Renewed Azerbaijani Attack on Karabakh Repulsed

NC2409134293 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1142 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 24 Sep (ARMENPRES)—The situation in the conflict zone aggravated sharply in the early hours of 24 September. After grossly violating the cease-fire agreement, the Azerbaijanis stepped up military operations in the north and east of the battlefront. Under the cover of artillery shelling, the Azerbaijani Army units stationed in Fizulinskiy and Agdzhabedinskiy Rayons attacked Karabakh positions. The fighters of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's Defense Army launched a counter-strike against the enemy, which retreated to its original position after losing men and material. There are injured on the Karabakh side.

Further on Clashes

NC2409160293 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Defense Headquarters has informed ARMENPRES that the situation in the confrontation areas remained unchanged yesterday and last night. There were no exchanges of fire or clashes. The sides continued to heed the cease-fire agreement. As reported earlier, the NKR leaders have instructed their defense units to withdraw to 7-12 km from Azerbaijan's territory. The talks between the NKR and Azerbaijan have created the impression that a peaceful solution will gradually be found to solve the problem.

The NKR leaders are working in many directions to normalize life in the Republic. Work is continuing to repair and restore houses, administrative buildings, and economic and industrial establishments destroyed in the fighting. Many of the damaged residential buildings and administrative establishments in Stepanakert [Khankendi] and Shusha, the largest towns in the NKR, have been restored. [passage omitted]

The main problem now is resettling the people displaced by Azerbaijan's attacks. Much work must be carried out in that respect. Over 30,000 refugees have returned to their places of birth since the beginning of the year. The Republic's leaders are extending funds to them to help them repair their damaged property or construct new homes. Yes, the refugees from Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] are determined to return to their homeland. Gradually, more are returning.

The situation on Armenia's border with Azerbaijan is relatively peaceful. Peace in the area has been disrupted by Azerbaijan's behavior. The Armenian Defense Ministry Information Service reported no significant incident on 23 September.

We received a report from the confrontation areas a short time ago that the situation has deteriorated again. After a lengthy lull in the confrontation, the cease-fire agreement was violated on the NKR's frontline last night. The NKR Defense Headquarters has revealed that Azerbaijan's military forces embarked on combat operations in the north and northeast of the frontline. The NKR defense positions were fired on heavily from the military positions in Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons. NKR military units repelled the enemy attacks. Azerbaijan's units were forced to retreat after suffering casualties and losing military equipment and vehicles. Several men were wounded on the Armenian side.

Azerbaijan's military units also fired heavily on NKR positions in Mardakertskiy Rayon.

The clashes were continuing in the east of the frontline this morning. An Azerbaijani helicopter [words indistinct] and crashed in that region.

We regret highlighting all these facts, after noting the peaceful situation in the NKR and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Considering events, we can either blame some forces in Azerbaijan, which are dissatisfied with their new leaders' policies and wish to maintain the confrontation, or conclude that Azerbaijan has not relinquished its intention to resolve the confrontation through force.

Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan Exchange Prisoners

LD2509104893 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in English 2145 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] On 22 September, the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] and Azeri state committees on captives, POW's, and hostages had a meeting in the village of (Goitapa) of the Agdam Region.

In return for the six Russian captives sentenced to death by the Azeri military court, the NKR side gave five Azeri captives and five civilians.

Azerbaijan

Foreign Minister Discusses Impact of CIS Accession

NC2509095193 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0701 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 25.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Turkey and Iran won't change their attitude to Azerbaijan because of its joining the CIS, said Gasan Gasanov, foreign minister of Azerbaijan in his conversation with ASSA-IRADA correspondent in the interval between the sessions of the CIS countries in Moscow. Before we took this important step we held the consultations with our nearest neighbours. Both in Turkey and Iran we were told that joining the CIS is internal affair of Azerbaijan. There were always friendly relations between our nations and no governments can change them, Gasan Gasanov said.

As for the USA its position is following, it's better to deal with the country which has signed the treaties, determining its relations with other countries, Gasan Gasanov emphasized.

Stresses Role of Choice

NC2709123393 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1134 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 27.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Observance of Azerbaijani interests is of primary importance, Foreign Minister of the Republic Gasan Gasanov answered to the following questions of ASSA-IRADA correspondent: Will the choice of partners for oilfields explorations of Azerbaijan be restricted if we join the CIS? Will CIS compel Azerbaijan to give strict preference to the members of community than contracts with Western oil companies? Certainly, he stressed, both Russia and other countries of the Community may be interested in Azeri oil. But the choice belongs to us, G. Gasanov said. Everything depends on benefit to Azerbaijan and it must be determined by authoritative independent experts.

Thousands Protest Membership

NC2409172593 Baku TURAN in English 1509 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 24.09.93 (TURAN)—A rally of many thousands in Ordubad [words indistinct] Ordubad regional department of the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] reported TURAN agency, a rally of many thousands supporters of the [People's] Front took place in Ordubad today. [as received]

The resolution of the rally runs, that Azerbaijan's joining into the CIS have to be qualified as a betrayal of the independence of Azerbaijan. The resolution also points out inexpediency of holding in Ordubad October 3 presidential elections.

The participants of the rally demanded that the authorities of Azerbaijan take necessary measures on solving winter social-economic problems of the region at the earliest possible date. The demand to halt provocative propaganda interpretation of Ordubad events by republican mass media was also put forward.

Defense Ministry Denies Offensive Launched 23 Sep

NC2409163093 Baku TURAN in English 1509 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 24 (TURAN)—The Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan disproved the reports of the commandership of the Armenian Armed Forces in Nagorno-Karabakh about the started yesterday offensive of the Azerbaijani Army in the north-east of Karabakh.

The Press-Center of the Azeri Defense Ministry reports, that the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan did not take any offensive operations, more than that a calm have established at all the sectors of the front for the last two days.

Reports Armenian Border Attacks

NC2509133993 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1138 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Baku 25.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—The provocative attack of Armenians of the border are going on. Yesterday at 2300 the village Shiafly of Zangelanskiy district was again exposed to the mortar fire from the territory of Armenia. ASSA-IRADA was told at the Defence Ministry. Azerbaijan's troops don't succumb to the provocations and continue to fulfill the ceasefire agreement, nevertheless, Armenian sources spread the misinformation as if Azerbaijan's troops assumed the hostilities.

Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Discusses Iranian Aid

NC2409172693 Baku TURAN in English 1509 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 24 (TURAN)—Iran goes on providing humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan in providing the refugees with dwellings and jobs not only at the governmental level, but also by means of the direct links of Iranian provinces with the regions of Azerbaijan. The questions of coordination of this assistance have been discussed at the meeting of the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan A. Dzhalilov with the delegation of the bordering Iranian town of Bilasuvar.

During the meeting the questions of shipment of goods and products to Nakhichevan through the territory of Iran, the shipment of Iranian products to Azerbaijan, the perspectives of creation of free economic zones in the bordering regions of both the states were discussed.

The Iranian party stressed, that it was ready to provide any assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the hundreds of thousand Azeri refugees.

Opposition Newspapers Reportedly Still Censored

LD2409200693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The state of emergency has been lifted in Azerbaijan but, according to INTERFAX and IMAPRESS, political censorship is still in force. Yesterday and today opposition newspapers were published with cuts.

Uzbek 'Secret Service' Tries To Seize Dissidents

NC2409173593 Baku TURAN in English 1509 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 24 (TURAN)—TURAN agency was told in the headquarters of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan (PFA), that recently, the representatives of the Uzbek Secret Service tried to arrest in Baku the Uzbek dissidents Abdurashid Sharif, Yadigar Abit and Abdurahim Pulatov.

But they could not manage this operation. All the three of them left Baku because of the change of the political climate in Azerbaijan.

The head of the Press-Service of the Ministry of National Security of Azerbaijan Mamed Dzhavadov told TURAN agency, that he knew nothing about the visit of the employees of Uzbek Secret Service to Baku.

The Uzbek dissidents, hiding themselves from the prosecution at motherland found shelter in Azerbaijan after President Elchibey came to power in Azerbaijan [sentence incomplete as received]

Georgia

Roundup of Fighting in Sukhumi Region

'Fierce Fighting' Continues

LD2509095393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] According to the Georgian Defense Ministry's press service, fierce fighting continued in Sukhumi all night. After additional forces had entered the town, the opposition failed to develop the attack and found itself somehow limited.

The opposing side has been retaining its positions so far in Novyy Rayon and near a monkey zoo.

At dawn, the opposition began shelling Sukhumi from various artillery positions. Georgian armed forces responded with artillery fire. Fighting still continues.

Fighting also continues in the Kodori section, where the opposing side carries on bitter fighting against the 1st Army corps and Vakhtang Kobalia's units. They are attempting to hinder the advance of our major forces toward Sukhumi. However, their casualties are increasing and their resistance is diminishing.

Abkhazia on Continued Fighting

LD2509144493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi September 25 TASS—Fighting in Sukhumi went on on Friday, according to a report of the Abkhazian parliament press service.

Abkhazian armed units occupied some more town boroughs and delivered a blow at the Georgian troops trying to reach Sukhumi on the eastern front. The Abkhazians preserve control over communications in the Ochamchira direction.

The action to evacuate civilians and Georgian servicemen from Sukhumi began today, says a report from Gudauta. The Russian Epron, Snayper, Geres-402 and two large landing ships, which stayed at the Gudauta roadstead on Friday, left for the Abkhazian capital this morning.

The action is expected to take two hours.

Tbilisi Breaks Abkhaz Line in Ochamchira

LD2509202593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1907 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi September 25 TASS—Georgian units on the offensive in the area of the Adzyubzha settlement of the Ochamchira region have broken Abkhazian defence, the Ochamchira regional administration head reports.

The success was achieved with the help of a Georgian unit that crossed the Kodori river and hit the Abkhazian rear.

Advanced part of Georgian Government troops and opposition units headed by Colonel Loti Kobalia, who attacked from the Ochamchira region, broke the Abkhazian defence near the Adzyubzha settlement, crossed the Kodori river and went to Sukhumi to help the town defenders.

Abkhazian Drive Fails

LD2609091593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] During the past 24 hours fierce fighting raged in Sukhumi. The opposite side tried to capture the TV tower and advance to the center of the town. Despite overnight fighting, the enemy failed to achieve its goal. By dawn, the enemy's fighting efficiency lowered significantly and the attack force decreased. At night, a unit of Georgian Armed Forces entered the town. Fighting is still in progress in Sukhumi.

Abkhazians Surround Units

LD2609104193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0939 GMT 26 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 26 Sep—After Abkhazian formations occupied the old quarters of Sukhumi on Saturday and surrounded a group of Georgian troops in the new quarter of the town, the command of the Abkhazian armed forces approached the command of the Georgian troops with the demand that they leave the town "to avoid further bloodshed." To do this the Georgian side was given an opportunity to leave the town at its northeastern part, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press center of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet. The Georgian side did not take the provided opportunity, the press service reports, and therefore the command of the armed forces of the Republic of Abkhazia intends to block the road today.

In the eastern direction over the last 24 hours, the Georgian troops have been trying to make a corridor toward Sukhumi.

'Fierce' Fighting in Ochamchira

LD2609145893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Read by Dmitri Kikvadze, head of KONTAKT news agency]

[Text] I had contact with Ochamchira. The situation there is similar to that of yesterday. Fierce fighting is continuing in the approaches to Adzyubzha where the enemy is defending zealously and there has not been a [words indistinct] for our forces so far. Reinforcement is required as well as the coordination of the actions against this very strong defense.

Abkhazians Capture Train Station Area

LD2609171693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Heavy street fighting is under way in Sukhumi, INTERFAX reports, quoting Georgian TV and Abkhaz military sources. The Abkhaz troops have captured the area of the railway station.

According to a top official at the Abkhaz Defense Ministry, there is a real possibility of gaining full control of Sukhumi by this evening.

'Fierce' Fighting Near Station

LD2709101693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Telephone report by Nikolay Mamulashvili, IPRINDA agency correspondent]

[Text] According to information from Georgian official sources, including the republic's Defense Ministry, the street fighting in Sukhumi is continuing. As before, there is fierce fighting in the area around the railway station. On the morning of 27 September the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry denied reports put out by certain parts of the Russian and foreign mass media, alleging that the residence in Sukhumi of Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state, has been surrounded by Abkhaz formations and that his life is in danger. Shevardnadze continues to be in the capital of the Abkhaz autonomous republic and he is supervising the city's defenses. The head of state, accompanied by Georgian Defense Minister Georgi Karkarashvili, is touring positions and meeting the city's defenders.

However, the situation is difficult. There is an obvious shortage of reserves, including combat equipment. Certain military specialists believe that unless Georgian army reinforcements enter Sukhumi by the end of 27 September, there will be no further point in defending the city.

Meanwhile, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who has returned to western Georgia, is holding rallies of his supporters in Zugdidi. The ex-president declared that his main objective is to unite and consolidate the nation. Gamsakhurdia said that if the present Georgian authorities resign, he will restore his own Supreme Soviet and hold new elections.

Shevardnadze on Deterioration of Sukhumi Situation

LD2409184593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 24 Sep 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, and edited by Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze announced that if urgent measures were not taken, Sukhumi would be occupied by the Abkhazian units.

The situation in Abkhazia sharply deteriorated on Friday morning, the Georgian leader informed his press service in Tbilisi at 11:00, September 24. There are hostilities in the city's streets. He said that 80

of the fighters attacking the city were "assassins armed to the teeth."

Shevardnadze emphasized that it was impossible for him to understand why the Georgian troops stationed in Ochamchira were not coming to Sukhumi. "They should come to the city immediately. Waiting is dangerous," the Georgian leader pointed out.

He called upon all armed Georgians to go to Sukhumi where "the fate of Georgia was being decided."

Eduard Shevardnaze's press service informed INTERFAX that Russian military experts and individual units which the Russian Defense Ministry could not control were fighting on the side of Abkhazia.

On Friday, the press service circulated a statement which says that this can be judged from the massive shelling of the city of Sukhumi which received 700 projectiles on September 22, and by the passenger and military aircraft which were shot down.

The document says that the world public has not responded to the shooting down of Georgia's TU-134 and TU-154 passenger liners by Abkhazians, as a result of which 126 people died. On Thursday, Eduard Shevardnadze's plane was shelled from Grad multiple-rocket launchers right on the runway, the press service reports.

Shevardnadze Describes Conditions in Sukhumi

AU2409182593 Paris AFP in English 1812 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Tbilisi, Sept 24 (AFP)—Rebel artillery Friday [24 September] pounded the capital of the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia amid reports of hand-to-hand street fighting in the city, as the UN announced a date for resumed peace talks.

More than 600 shells hit Sukhumi during the day, said Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who appealed to the international community for help as the first tank-backed government reinforcements arrived in the city. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Shevardnadze, in an emotional message from his Sukhumi headquarters, described Friday [24 September] conditions in the embattled city.

"The building opposite, where several pregnant women live, was shelled," he said in a statement read to AFP by his aide Timour Stepanov.

"The hospital has also been shelled, more than 600 shells have fallen on the city today (Friday)," he said.

Shevardnadze said 126 people had been killed aboard three civilian aircraft shot down on consecutive days at Sukhumi airport. "We call on the international community to condemn these barbarous acts," he said.

Abkhazian rebels, who control heights to the west of the city, fired mortar rounds and Grad surface-to-surface missiles on Georgian forces pinned down on the plains and in the city centre, Stepanov said. [passage omitted]

Western sources in the war-torn region said the first units of Georgian reinforcements had arrived in Sukhumi. Around 1,000 soldiers backed by five tanks, had been sent from Ochmachire to the south of Sukhumi, said the Georgian presidential press office in Tbilisi.

Their arrival broke an eight-day blockade of the region by Abkhazian rebels. [passage omitted]

Ships from the joint Russian-Ukrainian Black Sea fleet have been sent to Sukhumi to evacuate 2,000 refugees, but the fleet commander, Admiral Eduard Baltin, has ordered his ships to stay away from the coast unless they had been guaranteed safe access by the Abkhazians.

In a separate development, up to 8,000 women on a peace march crossed into Abkhazia, where they are to demand an end to the fighting. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Addresses Citizens of Sukhumi

LD2509102593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Due to the absence of a telephone link with Sukhumi, we are still unable to receive operative information from there. We hope the link will be restored today to enable us to report on the current situation in Sukhumi.

Yesterday, at 1430 on 24 September, the Georgian leader addressed Sukhumi citizens and defenders on Abkhazian radio. Here is the text of the radio message.

Dear friends, Sukhumi citizens, citizens of Abkhazia, Georgia. Hard days are being experienced by Georgia, especially by Sukhumi. As it might be said, foreign invaders and Abkhaz separatists have swarmed round our dear town like ants. But I want to tell you that Sukhumi is being defended by Georgian troops, all of Georgia. Sukhumi is being defended by Sukhumi citizens themselves. I am delighted by your heroism, courage, and bravery.

I am confident that Sukhumi will not fall because Sukhumi's fall will trigger the fall of Georgia. Georgian people will not allow this to happen. Our motherland will not allow this to happen. Separatists and adventurers, who will be judged by history, dream that Georgians do not live in this town. They want to repeat the Gagra tragedy in Sukhumi. They will not be able to witness this.

I know that you are well aware of the task we are facing. I know that you are suffering. Many have left Sukhumi for understandable reasons. But you have stayed here to fight for the survival of Sukhumi and Georgia. As I have told you, there are Georgian troops at your side here. I address you, Sukhumi citizens, I address soldiers, officers, and generals. I know how difficult it is at combat positions but we have no right to falter. We all have to be at our positions. We have to fortify the town. We have to save Sukhumi, thus saving the whole of Georgia, its unity and integrity.

There are sufficient forces here. I also want to tell you that the leadership of Abkhazia, the Council of Ministers, Zhiuli Shartava [chairman of the cabinet] and his colleagues, town authorities, the town, and all regions surrounding Sukhumi, all are in combat readiness. The opposing side sees it clearly and that is why they are fighting and destroying our dear Sukhumi with such hatred and rage.

But their evil plans cannot be fulfilled. Very soon, in a few hours, fresh forces will enter the town. A large Georgian Army has approached the Kodori river from Tbilisi, Kakheti, Kartli, Imereti, especially from Samegrelo [stronghold of Gamsakhurdia's supporters]. From all parts, from Lentekhi, Racha, Guria, Lechkhumi, Svaneti, our armed children and our grandchildren are advancing with tanks and armored vehicles. They are fighting their way to Sukhumi. I have spoken to them and they have convinced me that they will enter Sukhumi in time to save our dear and beloved town.

I would like to request all of you to keep calm, retain your usual patience and bravery. If the enemy appears on any street and in any neighborhood, he must be confronted as the enemy deserves to be. I am confident that we will honorably win this battle for Sukhumi, for our Abkhazia, and our Georgia. I wish you happiness, health, and victory.

We have broadcast head of state Eduard Shevardnadze's address to Sukhumi citizens and defenders of the town.

Shevardnadze: Tbilisi Holds All Key Areas in Sukhumi

LD2509152493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1403 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By unidentified GIA correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 25 Sep—At the request of ITAR-TASS, a Georgian Information Agency correspondent today made contact with Sukhumi by special radio link. He had a conversation with Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, who is in Sukhumi.

"All vitally important strategic points and arteries in the city are still being held," Eduard Shevardnadze noted. "Battles to mop up around the funicular [leads up to mountain forming city's backdrop] are taking place. The enemy is suffering large losses of manpower. They have already lost hundreds of fighting men. Eighty percent of the dead are Russians, Chechens, and Adygeys. The city's inhabitants have been fully mobilized and are fighting for every inch of land. Everyone who has come to defend Sukhumi from every corner of Georgia, as well as from its capital, are fighting heroically. The main thing now is for our Armed Forces to advance from Ochamchira, and everything is being done toward this end. What is needed now is for everyone to head swiftly for Abkhazia, where the fate of Abkhazia and all Georgia is being decided."

Asked by the correspondent what he thought about the arrival of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in Zugdidi, the head of state said: "We are concerned with more important problems here—problems to do with saving Abkhazia and Georgia, and everyone here is primarily worried by that problem alone. I repeat that the main thing at the moment is to save Abkhazia and to save Georgia's integrity."

Shevardnadze's Visits Reportedly Improve Situation

LD2509185593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1726 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 25 Sep—The situation in Sukhumi has been exacerbated today. Fierce fighting is continuing. "The situation became critical in some sectors, and there were signs of panic," the Georgian Information Agency has learned by a special radio link from Sukhumi.

"Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze visited those sectors. His personal example somewhat improved the situation." It has been confirmed on the telephone that Sukhumi was "expecting the arrival of Georgian units, whose advanced detachment had already crossed the Kodori River".

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Abkhaz Events

LD2609144093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Today, 26 September, at 0300 the head of state [Eduard Shevardnadze] granted an interview to Georgian TV correspondent Guram Gorelidze.

Yesterday was a very difficult day, Shevardnadze said. Today will be even more difficult. The enemy is practically inside the town. They have seized the railway station and other points of strategic importance. They outnumber us. Some 80 to 90 percent of the mercenaries are Russian fighters for whom this is not the first time they have taken part in the fighting.

As for us, we have a people's volunteer corps. The men are fighting bravely. Some of them perished heroically. It is difficult to fight against a trained unit like that of the Russian fighters. Their advantage in armament and equipment is apparent. They even have used arms that the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Armed Forces does not possess.

But Sukhumi defenders stand honorably, anyway. In spite of such a tense situation I had meetings with battalions, their commanders, and soldiers. They are in a combat mood. Their motto is: To save Sukhumi! To save Georgia!

Speaking of forces now present in the town, their number is not now sufficient. Of course, the first reinforcements have already entered. [Georgian Defense Minister] Gia Karkarashvili's credit is big in this. He himself went to the other bank of the Kodori river, heading the leading unit which subsequently crossed the river and entered Sukhumi. But this is still not enough to handle the problems we are going to face.

We are expecting fresh reinforcements. Gia Vashakidze is heading towards Sukhumi with his Mkhedrioni units. Zugdidi units and other additional units are also heading

to Sukhumi. Many of them have come to the banks of the Kodori and we believe that they will soon come here and we shall survive this morning and generally the day; I think the situation will come to reach an equilibrium. The problem is very difficult and very complicated.

Yesterday during the street fighting I went to the center of Sukhumi. I was trying to prevent some undesirable occurrences. I repeat, most of the soldiers are fighting bravely, but there have been instances when the combat positions were abandoned willfully. Unfortunately, there are also such people. We will have to put up a fight against them, a fierce fight. Today, a deserter is a traitor to his country. Everyone knows what hardships Georgia endures today. Its fate is being decided in Sukhumi, in Abkhazia. Hard battles are anticipated but we shall win. This is how every real Georgian thinks today.

This was the text of the interview.

Shevardnadze Reportedly Leaves Sukhumi

LD2509145293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze left Sukhumi in a helicopter during the night of Friday to Saturday [24-25 September], reports INTERFAX, citing well-informed sources close to the Abkhaz leadership.

The Abkhazian army is now in control of 60 percent of the territory of Sukhumi, according to representatives of the Abkhazian armed forces command. It is also reported that evacuation of civilians and Georgian servicemen from Sukhumi area has begun this morning. They are being evacuated by Russian ships from Sukhumi sea port and from the nearby village of Gulrpishi. Abkhazian artillery has ceased to shell the area while the evacuation is in progress, INTERFAX reports.

Officials Deny Report

LD2509150793 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1430 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi 25 Sep—Russian media made public a report that Eduard Shevardnadze had left Sukhumi. An IBERIA correspondent contacted members of the head of state's staff, who denied the information.

According to latest reports, the situation in Sukhumi is tense. Attempts to break through the siege from the direction of Ochamchira have so far been unsuccessful.

Shevardnadze House Said Blockaded; 'Life in Danger'

LD2609193293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1919 GMT 26 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 26 September—Early this evening Abkhaz formations stepped up their operations. They have nearly completely taken the town of Sukhumi and have blockaded the residence in which Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze is staying.

According to information coming from there, the residence of E. Shevardnadze has been blockaded and his life is in danger. Urgent measures are being taken to evacuate him.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from well-informed sources close to the Georgian leadership that a request for help in evacuating the Georgian head of state has been sent to the supreme military leadership of Russia. Representatives of the Russian troops in Tbilisi do not deny this report.

Tbilisi Denies Report

LD2609202993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 2010 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] We are interrupting this program to bring you the following message:

We have just received a report from the Defense Ministry press center that says that the situation in Sukhumi remains difficult. Most of the fighting is going on around the Sukhumi railway station.

A report carried at 2200 on the "Novosti" news program stating that Eduard Shevardnadze's residence has been surrounded by the enemy and that his life is in danger is totally false.

Shevardnadze: Situation in Sukhumi 'Critical'

LD2709113793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0930 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze has just reported that the situation in Sukhumi is critical. The city is being defended by our fighters and civilian population. But it is becoming increasingly difficult to block the attacks of the opposing side, which outnumbers our forces.

Unless the Sukhumi defenders receive tangible reinforcements, he said, the city will fall to the enemy.

Meanwhile, Georgian units based in Ochamchira are still failing to enter the city. It is inexplicable why our fighters [in Sukhumi], engaged in unequal battles with the enemy are not assisted by Guja Kurashvili's and Jemal Chumbutidze's large units and equipment. Tengiz Kitovani's armed formation, as well as Lakia's unit, which is subordinate to Vakhtang Kobalia.

Shevardnadze says that for 10 days the heroic defenders and population of Sukhumi have been waiting for these units. Sukhumi will fall if they fail to come to their aid as quickly as possible.

It must also be noted that cases of breaching combat discipline have been observed in Sukhumi. Individual subunits of the celebrated 23d brigade have abandoned

combat positions and moved to the Merkheuli area. At the moment the command of the brigade do their best to have those men returned.

Shevardnadze notes that it also seems odd that you can hardly find Georgian and foreign representatives of mass media in Sukhumi. That is probably why the public suffers from the shortage of information and it becomes difficult to quickly establish proper public opinion on the current situation in Sukhumi and generally in the conflict zone. I want this problem to be solved immediately, he says.

A question of Georgia's existence is being decided in Sukhumi. Today we will see who loves his country selflessly, who is a real hero with his heart in flames, and who is simply a supplier of slogans. At the moment there is no problem in Georgia more important than the defense and survival of Sukhumi. I reiterate that it is now vital for the city that manpower and equipment be received from Ochamchira without any delay, he says. (endall) 270930 giordano/germanos/ja 27/1139z sep WC 344

Air Force Targets Rebel-Held Tkvarcheli

AU2409171593 Paris AFP in English 1706 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Geneva, Sept 24 (AFP)—Three-way peace talks between Georgia, breakaway Abkhazian rebels and Russia are to resume here on Thursday [30 September], a UN spokesman said Friday [24 September]. [passage omitted]

The Swiss ambassador to the UN, Edouard Brunner, special representative of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for Georgia, will chair the talks, the spokesman added.

Separatist forces continued Friday to pound Sukhumi, the Georgian defence ministry said. Reliable sources in Geneva said the first Georgian reinforcements arrived Friday in Sukhumi and Ochamchire further south, breaking through an eight-day blockade by the rebels.

The sources, quoting western officials in the region, described scenes of panic at the city's airport where some 5,000 people, including many wounded, have gathered. Only one of Sukhumi's six hospitals is working, and at reduced capacity, the sources said.

Rebel-held Tkvarcheli, southeast of Sukhumi, was targetted by Georgian air raids for the first time Friday, the sources added.

Guria Province Remains Tense; Armed Groups Active

LD2609162493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Today's reports from Samtredia headquarters say that about 30 armed men with a tank and an armored personnel carrier have plundered the civilian population, stealing three cars.

Soso Zhghenti [a supporter of Gamsakhurdia], who is in Senaki, denied his units' involvement in these incidents. He said he is ready to take part in establishing the names of the bandits and destroying them, if necessary.

Other reports from western Georgia suggest that the movement of armed groups has been noticed near the Bakhmaro junction [of the road between Batumi and Samtredia] and Chokhatauri.

Russian Ships Evacuate Civilians From Sukhumi

LD2409174493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—A tripartite Russian-Georgian-Abkhazian agreement on evacuation of civilians from the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone was prepared today in Sukhumi with participation of representatives of the Russian State committee for Emergency Situations, the Georgian and Abkhazian leadership and command of the Black Sea Fleet, sources at the Black Sea headquarters told ITAR-TASS.

If the agreement is signed by all the three sides tonight, five ships and vessels of the Black Sea Fleet will approach the Abkhazian coast at 7:30 on September 25 and begin the evacuation.

Thousands of civilians, who are being shelled in Abkhazian- occupied Sukhumi, have been waiting for the evacuation for long. The Abkhazian side insists on the agreement to the effect.

Head of the Russian warships' humanitarian action Rear Admiral Nikolay Mikhalchenko is expected to keep constant contact via the ship radio-telephone international channel with the Abkhazian and Georgian leadership to coordinate the actions.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin also demands that the Abkhazian and Georgian sides guarantee safety of the ships engaged in the evacuation of the civilians.

3,373 Refugees Arrive in Poti

LD2609161393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Sunday morning five Black Sea Fleet ships delivered 3373 persons, largely women, children and elderly people, 162 wounded among them, from Sukhumi to the port of Poti in Western Georgia and to Sochi in Russia. According to the fleet's press center, the transportation of civilians was carried out under war time norms, that is one square meter for one person. The fleet's command consented to transport refugees by the ship Sniper which is used as a coast guard ship and is not designed for such needs.

In an interview with INTERFAX the chief of the fleet's command post, Rear-Admiral Yuriy Nichik, said that, despite the intensive fire exchanges in Sukhumi, neither Abkhazians nor Georgians opened fire in the area where the evacuation of refugees was taking place.

Nevertheless the deputy chairman of Russia's Committee for Emergencies, Viktor Vladimirov, sent a cable to the fleet's commander, Admiral Eduard Baltin, requesting him to carry out another operation for evacuating civilians from the area of military actions in Abkhazia. At present about 6000 people awaiting evacuation remain in the area of armed clashes.

In an interview with INTERFAX Admiral Eduard Baltin said that he is prepared to "order another operation for removing refugees from the conflict zone". "Now everything depends on the Abkhazians and Georgians, on their ability to come to terms once again and guarantee safety for the Black Sea Fleet ships and for the refugees," he pointed out.

According to the fleet's press center, consultations are in progress between representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia and Russia's Committee for Emergencies on the possibility of conducting another evacuation operation. The Black Sea Fleet ships are awaiting their decision at a safe distance from Sukhumi.

Parties Make Moves Toward Cease-Fire, Peace

UN Says Peace Talks To Resume 30 Sep

AU2409165193 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, Sept 24 (AFP)—Three-way peace talks between Georgia, breakaway Abkhazian rebels and Russia are to resume here on Thursday [30 September], a UN spokesman said Friday [24 September].

The talks were due to start on September 13 but were suspended after an upsurge in fighting between Abkhazian forces and the government troops in the northwestern Georgian region. Heavy fighting continued around the provincial capital Sukhumi on Friday.

Abkhazia Ready for Cease-Fire

LD2509173093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] The Abkhazian Foreign Ministry has reaffirmed readiness of the Abkhazian party to return to the cease-fire regime throughout the whole territory of Abkhazia and to continue negotiations within the joint commission to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani [as received] conflict.

The statement of the Abkhazian Foreign Ministry distributed on Saturday says that Abkhazian leadership is ready to do its utmost to observe provisions of the Sochi agreement on settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. That is why, the document indicates, at the session of the tripartite commission held on September 19-20 in Sochi and in the address of the command of the Abkhazian armed forces dated September 22 the Abkhazian party proposed to cease fire and resume implementation of the Sochi agreement. "However, the Georgian party has refused to support this proposal," emphasizes the statement.

Having accused the Georgian party of disruption of the Sochi agreement (it has violated the schedule of forces withdrawal from Abkhazia), the Abkhazian Foreign Ministry expressed perplexity due to the fact that Russia had announced economic sanctions not against Georgia "which has launched the aggression and does not wish to fulfill the signed agreement on ceasefire, but against Abkhazia's people—the victim of the armed aggression."

Tbilisi Rejects Abkhaz Call To Negotiate

MK2509122893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 93 p 3

[Report by Guga Lolishvili under "Georgia" rubric]

[Text] Georgian mass media outlets have repeatedly reported the text of an address by Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba to the Georgian leadership proposing negotiations. Commenting on this address, General Chikovani, commander of Georgia's internal troops and Eduard Shevardnadze's former chief military adviser, stated that the address was due to the fact that the Georgian forces have regained the initiate and now have military superiority.

Forecasting the implications of Ardzinba's address, it should be noted that no adequate reaction can be expected from Tbilisi this time since events have shown the ineffectiveness of any talks with Gudauta. Twice in the course of the Abkhaz war, the Georgian side has begun to withdraw its personnel and materiel. The first time ended in the loss of Gagra and a number of settlements in the north and the second nearly led to the loss of Sukhumi.

Now even those politicians in Tbilisi who have persistently advocated a peace settlement until the latest violation of the cease-fire, have stopped any talks about a peace settlement.

Gamsakhurdia Returns; Urges Defense of Sukhumi

LD2409174793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By Georgian News Agency correspondent—TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi September 24 TASS—A plane carrying ex-Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia landed at the Senaki air field at approximately 3 P.M. today, reports Georgian News Agency correspondent Maka Kiladze, referring to Senaki commandant Akaky Eliava.

The ex-president left Senaki for Zugdidi. The operational duty officer of the headquarters of Colonel Loti

Kobalia's armed units told Georgian News Agency correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya at 17:30, Gamsakhurdia arrived in Zugdidi and addressed a local rally.

According to the reports, he called on the population to take active part in protection of Sukhumi and other populated localities controlled by the Georgian side.

Vows To Oust Shevardnadze

AU2509184793 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By Jean Raffaelli]

[Text] Zugdidi, Georgia, Sept 25 (AFP)—Ousted Georgian leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia, said Saturday he planned to replace Eduard Shevardnadze as Georgian president, as bitter fighting raged between Abkhazian rebels and government forces.

"I plan to return to Tbilisi in the coming days," Gamsakhurdia told AFP in an exclusive interview in this west Georgian city, the main stronghold of his supporters.

Gamsakhurdia was chased from power in January 1992 after two weeks of bloody fighting between his armed supporters and opponents that left parts of central Tbilisi in ruins.

"I have come to save Georgia, to bring peace to society, to end the civil war and to reinstate legitimate authority," Gamsakhurdia said.

"I won't do it while Shevardnadze is in Sukhumi (capital of the separatist region of Abkhazia), and it will be done peacefully," Gamsakhurdia said, referring to his plan to return to Tbilisi.

He called for Shevardnadze's resignation, and urged "the Georgian people not to let Georgia abandon Abkhazia."

Meanwhile fighting continued Saturday for control of Sukhumi, in the Georgia's war-torn northwestern region, as Georgian officials denied that Shevardnadze had fled the Black Sea port.

The INTERFAX news agency quoted Abkhazian government sources as saying Shevardnadze, who had pledged to defend the city "to the end," had fled by helicopter overnight, although it did not report his destination.

But the head of the parliamentary press service in Tbilisi categorically denied the report. "I have just spoken to Mr. Shevardnadze by phone from Sukhumi," Ramin Chelidze said.

Shevardnadze has been holed up in the town, which is encircled by Abkhazian rebel forces, for more than a week, during which Georgian troops have striven in vain to break a blockade by the separatists.

INTERFAX said Saturday fighting was continuing at Ochamchira to the south of Sukhumi, where Georgian troops have been trying to drive through a corridor to reach the besieged town, which has been under Georgian control.

The Abkhazian sources said Georgian forces suffered heavy losses, in both men and equipment, in fighting overnight.

The Abkhazian defence ministry said its forces now controlled 60 percent of Sukhumi. In continuing offensives on all fronts, they had seized two Georgian tanks, one armoured vehicle and a large amount of ammunition, it said.

According to the Georgian news agency IPRINDA, Georgian troops were continuing to fight around Ochamchira, with the support of fighters loyal to Gamsakhurdia.

Pro-Gamsakhurdia forces have resisted government troops throughout much of western Georgia since the one-time president was ousted, but in recent days they have joined government forces to help defend Sukhumi.

Gamsakhurdia, an intellectual and former anti-communist dissident who was Georgia's first and only democratically-elected president, said he enjoyed support from 95 percent of the Georgian population and blamed the current war in Abkhazia on Shevardnadze who, he said, had "pushed for provocation."

A Georgian nationalist, Gamsakhurdia was elected in May 1991 with 87 percent of the vote, but the following summer and autumn was accused by opposition groups of dictatorial tendencies and later chased from power.

His supporters strongly opposed a ceasefire accord brokered by Russia and signed by Shevardnadze on July 27, accusing the Georgian leader of capitulation in the war against Abkhazian separatists.

On Friday, a U.N. spokesman said in Geneva that three-way peace talks between Georgia, Abkhazia and Russia would resume in the Swiss city next Thursday.

Proposes Elections

LD2609183493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 26 Sep

[Text] Georgia's ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who has recently returned from Groznyy (Chechnya) to Zugdidi (western Georgia) stated that he was ready to announce early elections. His appeal to the Georgian people, circulated on September 26, says that elections may be held on the condition that the current "illegal" leaders resign.

Gamsakhurdia also stated that the goal of his return was "national unity and reconciliation". He is also ready to "hold out his hand" to the current leaders if they repent of their sins. He said that the most important thing now was to save Georgia's integrity and to develop the economy.

Supporters Head for Abkhazia

LD2509124093 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Zugdidi, 25 Sep—Today, an IBERIA correspondent has been informed from the press center of the Zugdidi military headquarters that in accordance with Zviad Gamsakhurdia's order armed units to be sent to Abkhazia are being formed in Zugdidi. Several units have already left for the conflict zone.

[Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian at 1030 GMT on 25 September, in a Senaki-datelined item, likewise notes: "Today, an IBERIA correspondent phoned Akaki Eliava, the head of military headquarters in Senaki, who said that armed units and equipment still in Senaki will be sent to Abkhazia provided that people arrested in Senaki during last year's events are freed. Nemo Chanturia, Zaur Tsirghvava, Jemal Akhalaia, and Davit Karchava are in preliminary confinement at the moment. Akaki Eliava said that the previous evening he had got in touch with Avtandil Ioseliani, the first deputy Georgian interior minister, who promised to have the abovementioned individuals freed in proper time."]

Unit Nears Abkhazia

LD2609211393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Fresh armed detachments of Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters have left for Abkhazia to help the defenders of Sukhumi. Khutta Guguchia, administration head of Ochamchirskiy Rayon, has told a Georgian Information Agency correspondent that a detachment of armed formations, under the command of Vakhtang Kobalia, arrived in Zugdidi and Ochamchira on Sunday night [26 September]. Progressing further toward Sukhumi, it will help the Georgian troops near the village of Adzyubzha on the border of Ochamchira and Gulripsh Rayons.

Party Claims Russia Aided Gamsakhurdia's Return

LD2509141693 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi 25 Sep—The press center of the Georgian National Democratic Party handed an IBERIA correspondent a statement that says:

As it has become known, the Georgian ex-president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia arrived in Georgia and this fact has opened yet another front.

Gamsakhurdia's arrival was inconceivable until current processes in Russia, the beginning of the final of "a big game" as well as recent events in Georgia, forced Russia to be hasty and use its reserve measure—Gamsakhurdia's return to Georgia.

The war in Abkhazia, parliamentary or nonparliamentary destructive forces, Gamsakhurdia and his "Zugdidi government"—all this is used to force Georgia to make its enslavement to Russia official. If Georgia stands firm, overcomes its senselessness, ignorance, its cowardliness, no enemy will be able to do us any harm. We appeal to every Tbilisi citizen, every Georgian, every honorable citizen of Georgia to defend Georgia's integrity and our independence at every section of the front—in Sukhumi, Ochamchira, Chokhatauri, Tbilisi.

No—to CIS!

No—to Georgia's disintegration!

No—to terror "Zviadists" aspire to start!

No—to any shameful attempt to restore Gamsakhurdia's regime!

The Georgian National Democratic Party will do its best to stop the march of the powers of darkness to the heart of Georgia. If required, we will defend our capital, all of Georgia to the last drop of blood and will send Gamsakhurdia further than Grozno, probably to Cuba as we have promised him.

Long live united, independent, and victorious Georgia!

National Democratic Party, Tbilisi, 25 September 1993.

Shevardnadze Issues Statement on Downed Aircraft

LD2409182893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Report on statement by Georgian head of state's press secretariat issued in Tbilisi on 24 September—read by announcer in Russian]

[Text] In connection with the recent tragic and bloody events in Abkhazia, the press secretariat of the head of the Georgian state made public a statement on 24 September:

As has been reported, in only three days, 21, 22, and 23 September the opposing side shot down three Georgian passenger aircraft causing the death of 126 civilians of various nationalities. Lists of the deceased, whose identities could be established, were published in the newspapers.

This horrifying warfare statistic not only stuns but also raises a question: What military and strategic targets could justify such a systematic hunt for passenger planes? The mass media have confined themselves to the verification of facts. No appropriate reaction has followed from international organizations who are committed to give proper legal assessment to brutal actions like this.

The fact of shooting at the aircraft of a Georgian delegation returning from talks in Sochi has also been left without attention by the world community. On 23 September, aimed shelling of the parking area of the Georgian head of state's aircraft at Sukhumi Airport was

carried out. This proves the use of the most up-to-date aiming equipment. This was also the way a Sukhoi-25 combat aircraft was shot down. No means like this could be in the possession of the Gudauta group.

The continuing military assistance given to the Gudauta group is made evident by the fact that on 22 September alone up to 700 missiles were fired on Sukhumi from Grad-type launchers.

If we believe the statement of the Russian Ministry of Defense about noninterference in the military conflict in Abkhazia, we must infer that the leadership of the ministry cannot control the actions of its experts and units stationed in Abkhazia.

Blames Russians for Downing Su-25

LD2409123493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told journalists in Sukhumi Thursday that the military situation on all Abkhazian fronts had changed in favor of Georgian troops.

In his view, the Georgian Su-25 attack plane could be shot down only by Russian troops. The order to do so could be given by Russian field commanders in Abkhazia. He dismissed the possibility that the shooting down of Georgian planes could be ordered by Russian President Boris Yeltsin or Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Abkhazians say they shot down two Su-25 planes of the Georgian Air Force but Tbilisi has acknowledged the loss of only one.

Georgian Defense Minister Georgy Karkarashvili said, for his part, that the Abkhazian plan to capture Sukhumi had failed. He told journalists in Sukhumi Thursday that "the worst is over."

President's Aide Affirms Sukhumi To Be Defended

LD2409181393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Today, in the building of the Georgian Parliament, journalists were briefed on the current situation in Abkhazia. Vazha Lortkianidze, chief of staff of the head of state, said that all night and since the morning of 24 September, fierce battles have been raging on the outskirts of Sukhumi and in some residential areas. He said that the Gudauta side and forces supporting it have concentrated all available forces on the approaches of the town. About 80 to 90 percent of fighters in their units are not ethnic Abkhazs. There are many fighters from the North Caucasus and other regions of Russia in the armed units.

Vazha Lortkipanidze said that recent events show that a third force has been actively participating in fighting around Sukhumi, namely those who represent interests of reactionary circles, those who were forced to leave the political arena in Russia.

It was said at the briefing that reinforcements will be sent to Sukhumi to strengthen the defense of the town which is suffering brutal shelling and bombardment.

If Georgian troops, carrying out successful attacks in Ochamchire rayon, manage to break through the defense line of the opposing side near the village of Adzyubzha and cross the Kodori river, this will be of significant assistance to the Sukhumi defenders.

Vazha Lortkipanidze also noted that all news agencies of the world have reported that three Georgian commercial aircraft have been downed recently. However, these barbaric actions did not receive appropriate condemnation by various organizations and committees. Explaining the facts does not suffice in cases like this. Everyone remembers the uproar and agitation caused by the shooting down of a South Korean Boeing in 1983. The activities of Abkhaz separatists and forces supporting them have gone beyond all admissible limits of warfare.

Vazha Lortkipanidze answered numerous questions from journalists and appealed to them to be as unbiased and quick as possible when covering current events.

Just before the briefing ended, information was delivered to the hall where the briefing was being held to the effect that Georgian troops had broken through the opposing side's defenses in the village of Adzyubzha and crossed the Kodori river.

Official Denies Black Sea Fleet Military Involvement

LD2409184293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1728 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—The Black Sea Fleet unit has not been ordered to shell the Abkhazian coast or interfere in any other way in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, deputy head of the Black Sea Fleet press center 2nd class captain Andrey Grachev told ITAR-TASS.

The statement commented on recent mass media reports, which claimed, referring to sources close to the Georgian Government circles, the unit aims to "force Abkhazian warships out from the Sukhumi Bay, and ship artillery can suppress Abkhazian fire nests".

In the words of the fleet representative, Black Sea Fleet commander Admiral Eduard Baltin spoke to Georgian Vice-Premier Avtandil Magriani over the telephone today. The Georgian official requested no military assistance.

The Black Sea Fleet ships have approached the Georgian coast only to evacuate civilians; they can use arms only for self-defence, stressed Grachev. In his words, the unit

includes the unarmed General Secretary-402 hydrographic vessel, the Epron rescue ship, as well as the Snaiper mine-sweeper and two large landing ships, whose arms are not made to deliver fire at the coast and suppress fire nests.

Russian Ambassador Says 'Commitments' To Be Honored

LD2609171293

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian at 1300 GMT on 26 September carries an 11 and a half minute recording of an address made by Russian Ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy in Russian on Georgian television on 25 September.

Zemskiy speaks about Russo-Georgian relations and Russia's role in the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. He says that Russian President Boris Yeltsin "has made a statement that unequivocally condemns this scandalous and blunt violation of the Sochi agreement by the Abkhaz side. The statement emphasizes that Russia will further carry out its, as said here, commitments as guarantor; I would say as a mediator because in order to be a guarantor one should have the capability of separating the fighting parties physically."

Zemskiy says that Russian troops stationed temporarily in Georgia could be given a mandate as peace-keeping forces. He notes that solving this problem has been delayed mainly because of distrust in the Russian troops, even though the officers and soldiers are carrying out Yeltsin's orders. As for citizens of the Russian Federation fighting in Abkhazia, "It is impossible during a time of such disturbances to introduce changes inside the skull of every potential criminal so that he will not fight."

The ambassador says that the soonest possible end to the conflict is in Russia's interests. "We will do our best to achieve this settlement, to have the president come here to sign a friendship treaty. This is our goal, this is our aspiration."

Zemskiy spoke about the need to restore the traditional good- neighborly relations between Georgia and Russia.

He admitted that there is a certain "discontent, bitterness, and mistrust in individual servicemen—the reactionary military as it is said here—and so on, but we have to believe in the principal things and at a certain time make a political choice. On the one hand, we are for friendship. But once the issue of a mandate of peace-keeping forces is raised, mistrust in the Russian troops is immediately expressed."

He said that it would take the United Nations six to nine months to send peace-keeping forces, and the UN observers will not go to countries where fighting is in progress. He repeated that Russian troops could be peace-keepers rather than guarantors since the conflict is "an internal affair" of an independent country.

Good relations between the two countries should continue. He said he hoped that fighting will be stopped eventually. But questioning Russian policy "is a contradiction" because Russian policy is set by Yeltsin, whom Shevardnadze has said he supports.

Vladimir Zemskiy said he has done his best as ambassador to achieve all the tasks set by the Russian president. "If there is a wish to have friendly relations, we should compromise with each other and think of the future."

Search for Abducted Russian Guards Officers Fails

LD2409200293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1710 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 24 TASS—Attempts to trace the fate of Russian border guards Colonel Vladimir Rogal and Major Oleg Beskaravainiy, who were taken hostage in down town Tbilisi on September 20, have ended in failure.

Local law enforcement bodies continue to search for the missing soldiers but their efforts have been futile so far.

Officials from the headquarters of the Caucasian border region told ITAR-TASS that measures had been taken for the protection of Russian servicemen and their families in order to prevent similar terroristic acts against them. A resolution was adopted to suspend indefinitely classes at school for children of Russian border guards.

According to official statistics, in the period between 1991- 1992 over 600 incidents of criminal assault on facilities of the Russian Army have been reported. As a result, 71 servicemen and members of their families died. Since the beginning of 1993, 7 Russians died and 18 were wounded. Representatives of the armed forces drew attention to the fact that no serious investigation had been conducted on these facts and no culprit was found and brought to justice.

The Russian ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy and representatives of the group of Russian troops in the Caucasus and the Caucasian border region have drawn the attention of the Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze to this fact during their meeting in Georgia.

Patsatsia Appeals to International Civil Defense Group

LD2509180393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Letter from Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia to Snadok Znaidi, president of the International Civil Defense Organization, in Geneva; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Mr. Znaidi: Being well aware of your peacemaking activity, I appeal to you with the following statement at a moment critical for Georgia.

On 16 September 1993, Abkhaz separatists brazenly violated the 27 July Sochi cease-fire agreement and renewed combat activities. The truce reached through major efforts was wrecked. The town of Sukhumi is being bombed brutally. Thousands of innocent civilians, women, children, and the elderly are dying. One of the most beautiful Black Sea coast towns is being destroyed and burned. We regret that a mechanism of guarantees has failed.

Now that Georgian integrity is under real threat, we request that you have this completely unjustifiable bloodshed and the Abkhaz aggression stopped.

Yours sincerely,

[signed] Otar Patsatsia, prime minister of the Republic of Georgia and head of civil defense

Supreme Council Debates Admission to CIS

LD2609173193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] There is no other alternative for Georgia today but to join the CIS. However, the final decision is to be made by the people. This view was expressed at an extended extraordinary meeting of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers today, attended by Parliamentary Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze, and representatives of a number of standing commissions and factions of the republic's supreme legislature.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, who had returned from Moscow yesterday. He led a republican delegation with observer status to a meeting of heads of state and government of CIS member countries.

The prime minister's report on the results of the Georgian delegation's work at the meeting in the Russian capital was followed by heated debate. In the beginning, different opinions were expressed about the advisability for Georgia to become a CIS member.

Deputy Prime Minister Irina Sarishvili, who leads the National Democratic faction in parliament, expressed her negative attitude toward Georgia's membership in the CIS. She thinks that the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, who is now in Sukhumi, is also against this idea.

Guram Muchaidze, MP [member of parliament], chairman of the Georgian Social Democratic Party, proposed that an emergency session of parliament be convened to examine the issue.

At the same time, having given a sensible assessment to the situation in Abkhazia and the political and economic situation in the republic as a whole, the overwhelming majority of speakers, both from the government and parliament, agreed that the issue of Georgia's membership in the CIS should be decided without delay. However, it was said at the meeting that the opinion of the people and the head of state must be taken into account. Perhaps it is necessary to hold a referendum soon, to decide on this issue, which is so vital for the republic. Otar Patsatsia pointed out that the great responsibility of both the Cabinet of Ministers and parliament for Georgia's future made it necessary to start active work in this direction from tomorrow. [sentence as heard]

Cabinet Members Support Membership

LD2609183393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Most of the participants in the regular enlarged session of the Georgian Cabinet, held on Sunday, supported the idea of joining the CIS.

The session was chaired by Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, who had led the Georgian delegation to the CIS summit which acted as an observer. Georgia was planning to ask the CIS members to consider the possibility of admitting it to the economic union as an associated member. No such request was made during the summit, however.

Chikvaydze Calls For Referendum

LD2609222493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted see referent item] After today's Cabinet of Ministers' meeting, our correspondent spoke with Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaydze.

[Begin Chikvaydze recording] The prime minister today delivered a report on a meeting of the CIS countries' prime ministers in Moscow. An issue was raised: What kind of economic relations should Georgia have with Russia? We want to be associate members. Everything is fine, but Russia itself and other CIS members put the issue in a different perspective. They say that we must first of all join the CIS and only after this can we be accepted as associate members.

I believe that deciding on this issue should not be a prerogative of individual political figures, ministers, or groups. We must ask the public. There are different opinions among the public. The people should decide whether we should join the CIS or not. The media should explain to the people the advantages and disadvantages of joining the CIS. This is the main thing.

Unless there is a popular view on key issues like this, the state will cease to exist. Public opinion represents the only support for the state. It gives the state its power.

You know about the situation in Abkhazia, the Tskhinvali region [South Ossetia], Samegrelo [Mingrelia], and so on. The situation is unstable everywhere except

Ajaria. Being in such a complex situation, it is necessary to discuss this issue seriously and without delay. [end recording]

South Ossetia Parliament Chairman Recalled From Post

LD2409224093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1954 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] With 36 votes for and 9 against, a parliament session in the self-proclaimed republic of South Ossetia on the territory of Georgia, with the capital in Tskhinval, recalled Torez Kulumbegov from the post of its chairman today. By secret ballot, the session elected the Tskhinval university rector, Ludvig Chibirov, parliamentary speaker.

Kulumbegov's removal was proposed by the Unity faction and the group of non-aligned deputies. He left the hall in the beginning of the session accusing the opposition of groundless allegations against him.

The session also recognized as unlawful its presidium's resolution of August 27 to remove Prime Minister Oleg Teziyev and First Deputy Speaker Alan Chochiyev.

However, later their dismissal was voted for in a secret ballot. The session appointed First Vice Prime Minister Gerasim Khugayev as the republic's prime minister.

At the session, the deputies pointed to the unsatisfactory work of their presidium, and after a short debate voted for its dismissal.

Prime Minister Khugayev proposed that the old government should resign, while the session should adopt a law on the Council of Ministers to set a policy for its further reorganization.

Estonia

Troops Reportedly Placed on Alert on Russian Border

LD2509090393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] According to a source close to the northeast Estonian security police bureau, frontier troops and subunits of Estonia's defense forces have been put on alert on the Russian-Estonian border, near the town of Narva. This is connected with the situation in Russia. A strange reaction!

Leader of Russian Speakers Views Situation in Moscow

WS2709143993 Tallinn BNS in English 1608 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, Sept 24, BNS—The key topic at today's meeting between the Russian-Speaking Population's Representative Assembly and Pro Patria was the recent developments in Russia and their possible effect on Estonia.

The assembly's leader, Nikolai Yugantsov, informs that both sides expressed interest in stabilization of the situation in Russia. Yugantsov says the chaos in Moscow may "inspire" local Russian extremists.

"Estonia's Russian-speaking population is at present represented by moderate politicians," Yugantsov said, "but the events in Russia may provoke radical forces into action, all the more so since the relations between the two communities are still strained."

Besides Russian developments, the two parties discussed the situation of Estonia's Russian community. They did not touch on questions concerning the upcoming elections, Yugantsov said.

The chairman of Pro Patria's parliamentary faction, Illar Hallaste; Karin Jaani; and the party's secretary general, Ivo Rull, represented Pro Patria at the meeting. Pro Patria's press service informs that similar meetings will become regular.

Shadow Economy Accounts for One-Eighth of 1992 GNP

WS2709143493 Tallinn BNS in English 1608 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, Sept 24, BNS—The Estonian Statistics Department reports that shadow economy and the informal sector accounted for 12.6 percent of Estonia's gross national product in 1992. The sums involved amount to 1.874 billion kroons.

The head of the department's macro economy service, Aarne Tihemets, told BNS that the share of shadow economy is actually twice as big as reported, and that the 12.6 percent represents the part statisticians have been able to measure.

Tihemets noted there have been earlier attempts to form an idea of the extent of shadow economy, but the data for 1992 are the first worth considering. The Statistics Department hopes to publish more reliable information next year with the help of guidelines on methods now being prepared by the United Nations that are expected to be ready by the end of the year.

The shadow economy and the informal sector in 1992 gained 40.7 million kroons from illegal alcohol sales, 29.8 million from illegal sale of fuel, 400 million from illegal trade in metals, 13.8 million from prostitution, 690 million from undeclared income received from other countries, and 700 million kroons from informal personal consumption.

Latvia

Ulmanis, Delegation Leave for UN, U.S. Meetings

WS2409114293 Tallinn BNS in English 1834 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Riga, Sept 23, BNS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis left for New York Thursday [23 September] to join the U.N. General Assembly session there. Ulmanis, like Estonia's and Lithuania's presidents, is scheduled to report at the session on the regional situation.

Ulmanis would concentrate on the development prospects of Latvia in his speech and say how other countries could help Latvia. Another important theme would be the Russian troop withdrawal, Ulmanis told reporters before departing Riga.

During the visit, Ulmanis will meet President Bill Clinton on the interstate cooperation and relations with Russia. [passage omitted]

The delegation includes Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs and Saeima Foreign Committee Head Alexander Kirsteins.

Kirsteins will make an attempt to attract the U.N. attention to Russia's efforts to retain the Skrunda radar in Latvia. He will also try to find out what sanctions would the United Nations take against Russia if it does not get the troops out according to the schedule.

The delegation returns to Latvia Sept. 30.

Saeima Tells Officials To Summarize Deputies' KGB Links

WS2409143193 Tallinn BNS in English 0953 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Riga, Sept 23, BNS—The Latvian Saeima commissioned related officials Thursday [23 September] to

summarize data on deputies' links to KGB services to consequently nullify mandates of those whose collaboration is documentary proved.

The adopted draft resolution was prepared by the Latvian National Independence Movement [LNNK].

The ruling Latvia's Way-Farmers' Union coalition was not united in its attitude toward the draft.

The Latvia's Way said that a bill on keeping and using of KGB files should be approved first, before the approval of the LNNK resolution.

But Farmers insisted they want to know the names of KGB collaborants between their colleagues.

Central Bank Receives $21 Million in G-24 Credit

WS2709143693 Tallinn BNS in English 1339 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Riga, Sept 24, BNS—The Latvian central bank, the Bank of Latvia, received USD 21 million of a G-24 rehabilitation loan, said an aide to the Latvia's economy minister.

The money is earmarked to materialize several priority goals, like the development of agriculture, communications, transportation and finance infrastructures, power industry, science and progressive technologies.

Latvian firms and companies will use the credit for a term of three years at a yearly interest rate of 17 percent. The credit will be processed by 17 commercial banks in compliance with a Latvian government resolution.

If the sum of a credit does not exceed USD 3 million and a commercial bank fully guarantees its extension, the bank should prepare for the refinancing operation by Oct. 14.

If the sum is larger than USD 3 million, or a bank does not give a full guarantee, the application papers have to be submitted to the Finance Ministry by Oct. 4 for coordination with the Cabinet.

All applications will be considered by a special committee, headed by the finance minister, taking into account several criterea, like the mentioned priority goals, the number of jobs created, the quality of the project, the market capacity and others.

The committee will invite observers from international organizations and donor-states to provide for the openness of its actions. The applicant will receive the committee's conclusion in a week after the resolution is taken.

Lithuania

President, Advisers Leave for U.S., UN Talks

LD2609115193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 26 Sep 93

[Text] Algirdas Brazauskas, president of the Republic of Lithuania, and the advisers accompanying him have left for the United States today.

All three presidents of the Baltic states will meet U.S. President Bill Clinton on Monday [27 September]. On Tuesday, Brazauskas will make a speech at the UN General Assembly.

Following this, he will meet foreign politicians and take part in Lithuanian festivities which will be held in Los Angeles.

Prime Minister Returns From Visit to Japan, Korea

LD2609204993 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius returned home from his visit to Japan and South Korea today.

He was met at the airport by Ceslovas Jursenas, chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas, and by other officials.

Agreement With ROK on Investments

LD2409104093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Excerpt] In Seoul today, Lithuania and Korea signed an agreement on the encouragement and protection of mutual investments. In the presence of the premiers of both countries, the agreement was signed by Kazimieras Klimasauskas, Lithuanian minister of industry and trade, and by Korean acting Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong [title as heard].

A meeting between Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and ROK Prime Minister Hwang In-song took place before the signing. Bilateral relations between the states and the possibilities of economic cooperation were discussed. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Representatives Hold News Conference

LD2309172193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1320 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The president of the Republic of Lithuania met today with representatives of the Ministry of National Defense and the Voluntary National Defense Service. These representatives held a news conference after the meeting with the president. Correspondent Algirdas Usas reports:

[Usas] A large group of high-ranking officers arrived at the news conference, including National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius; Deputy Minister Colonel Jonas Gecas; Lieutenant Colonel Algirdas Pocius, the acting commander of the Voluntary National Defense Service; Colonel Ceslovas Jezerskas, the commander of the Gelezinis Vilkas [Iron Wolf] Brigade; and commanders of battalions and units.

Jonas Gecas informed journalists about the meeting with the president:

[Begin Gecas recording] The conversation was essentially to my liking. This was not the first time we had met the president. Only previous meetings, maybe, used to be more abstract. This meeting was very concrete. We discussed almost all the issues that affect us, from the future of the Army to the present concrete social economic, military, and other problems. Almost all of us had a say, those who wished expressed their opinions. Egidijus Bickauskas, deputy chairman of the Seimas, attended the meeting. Essentially the meeting focused on one main thought—that these events cannot be regarded and will not be regarded by all of us as pressure on the government, the president, or the Seimas. These events demonstrated once again to all of us that there are many problems, many causes that must be solved.

The second thought that crystallized in my mind after the meeting was that the Seimas and the law must define the size and functions of the Army. This must be stated in documents, what functions must be carried out by the Army in a period of peace and of war. When this is decided, it must be stated how it is financed. The Army must not be an object of ridicule or something else when tasks are given to it and demands made that are not based on legal documents, finances, and material bases. If there is an Army, it must be supplied correspondingly. If society and the Seimas decide that the Army is not necessary, we agree, but there is a law and constitution that says it is necessary, that it must be accordingly maintained. This is the most important matter.

Another thing is that the president promised to use his influence to ensure that the issues of financing and social security will be solved in the nearest future and that he will devote his constant attention to it.

A meeting with the Land Army Brigade officers will be organized in a few weeks' time, and later with Voluntary National Defense Service officers. This cooperation will continue. It is good that rather close contact was maintained today with the internal affairs minister, views were expressed, proposals and reproaches made, and common agreements reached. [end recording]

[Usas] Other participants in the news conference said that the meeting with the president was useful. We have wanted such meetings for a long time now, said Algirdas Pocius.

Audrius Butkevicius repeated that an attempt had been made to create serious instability, but that it was unsuccessful, and the incident in Kaunas after the return from the forest was the continuation of this attempt.

What should be the legal assessment of this incident? The participants in the conference avoided a direct answer. This must be decided by the lawyers and the Seimas Commission, they replied. Will the participants in the incident be called to account? According to an agreement, not for this incident. But for crimes committed at this time or later, if they take place, yes. Have all weapons been returned to the units? The number is correct, and the numbers of weapons and ammunition are being checked at present. No one has confirmed whether hard drinking was taking place at that time in the commandant's office. Other matters also were discussed. Journalists were informed that the government owes the Army about 20 million litas allocated previously in the budget. Only two litas 60 centas are allocated for each serviceman's food per day. The speakers were for the establishment of military police to maintain order, for better safeguarding of the weapons. Large amounts of additional funds are needed for this purpose. On the whole, journalists, or at least some of them, were disappointed at not having obtained more concrete replies.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Reports on Kaunas Troop Mutiny

PM2709124193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 3

[Valeriy Gromak report under "Events and Commentary" rubric: "Volunteers Become Outlaws. Lithuanian Right Sees 'Hand of Moscow' at Work"]

[Text] Kaliningrad—On 16 September a group of over 100 servicemen of the 226th Company of Kaunas District Volunteer National Defense Service left their unit's base and, taking 133 assault rifles with them, hid in the surrounding forests. The reason for this, according to a statement by the fugitives, was the servicemen's meager social privileges and dissatisfaction with their commanders, former Soviet Army career servicemen.

National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius immediately went to Kaunas, where he met with the mutinous volunteers Saturday [18 September] and ordered them to leave the forest and lay down their weapons by 1200 hours Monday. In response to this former Junior Lieutenant Yonas Maksvitis, leader of the group of mutinous volunteers, stated in an interview with Kaunas television that they do not intend to lay down their weapons and that Butkevicius' order had "only strengthened their resolve to fight."

Egidius Bickauskas, chief of the presidential working group to normalize the incident, explained that the national defense minister's order is not an ultimatum and does not signify the use of tough measures if it is not carried out. "I can repeat that we see no grounds for severe measures and we remain confident that everything can be resolved through talks," Bickauskas said.

But he added that, unless the volunteers return to their place of service after the time period indicated by the minister expires, he will have to declare that they are no longer servicemen.

In the opinion of Lithuanian Internal Affairs Minister Romasius Vaitiekunas, the servicemen's actions "threaten democracy and stability in Lithuania and also encourage an upsurge in crime. According to available data, criminal groupings operating in the republic regard the volunteers' actions favorably."

The position of the right-wing opposition, which as usual sees "the hand of Moscow," is interesting. Right-wing leader Vytautas Landsbergis stated that "Lithuania's great neighbor, Russia," has the greatest interest in the incident. Landsbergis said that these or similar events could be used to show the "negative side of the Russian troop withdrawal." "And the gloomiest scenario is that they could be used to create the conditions for the reintroduction of Russian troops into Lithuania," Landsbergis added.

...Two months ago there was a mutiny of chasseurs in Estonia which ended in the republic defense minister's resignation. I wonder what the Kaunas mutiny's outcome will be?